EFFORT FANZINE

#1

COMMON CAUSE
ON TRUE COLORS
GET THE MOST
RIGHT IDEA
LION OF JUDAH
REACT RECORDS



EFFORT FANZINE

First off, welcome to Effort Fanzine, first issue, first page. I had the desire to do another fanzine, as my first issue of Changes Fanzine was a rather thin one, with not that new interviews. A second issue was almost done, when within a matter of a month or so, four of the bands interviewed called it quits, which bummed me out quite a bit. However, it turns out that Kalle too had the urge to start working on a fanzine again, so we decided to put our heads together and go for it, and this is the outcome.
It turns out that Kalle and I work well together, and after a couple of weeks we knew exactly what bands/persons to interview, how we wanted it to look, we had picked a name, and even sent away some interviews. Playing in the same band and sharing a deep love for Unit Pride made this journey pretty pleasant and free from hardships. Thank you for picking this up, enjoy.

Ulf

The first idea of doing a zine together was more intended as a joke, something we just threw out there.. But then we kind of thought about it and it actually made sense. We're into the same bands and we're pretty much on the same level as far as layout and ideas goes so we figured we'd give it a go. Now, 2 months later we've managed to pack 60 pages of hardcore into this thing.

Making a zine is pretty much the easiest thing in the world, you get a reason to listen to your favorite music over and over again whilst thinking about what makes this band and their music so interesting. Then comes the hard part, to actually recieve some answers and get other people as excited as you are.

Bands and people that we wanted in the zine were pretty easy, Ulf had started working on a second issue of Changes Fanzine which was suppose to include True Colors (and some others) so we started from there and added more bands we're into as we went along. Looking through the line up we're sure a lot of people will call us narrow minded but then, so be it.
This is our contribution, our Effort, our late nights with no, or at least very little, sleep. Hope you enjoy reading/looking through it as much as we enjoyed doing it. Until next time.

Kalle

Ads were free for labels we're fans of and support.

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LOVE ANIMALS - DON'T EAT THEM!



Photo: Andreas Norberg

THANK YOU's
Henrik Skog, Aram, Tor-Erik, Jim & ON, Hinkey & True Colors, Daniel and Jon A & Common Cause, Kyle & Get The Most, Tim & Traci McMahon, Ian Ahron James Gene & Lion Of Judah, Andy Norton, everyone in Right Idea, Alex, Mangel, Fred Hammer, Ante, Hurtig, Louise and everyone who picked this up whether you did it out of pity or if you're genuinly interested in zines.

PHOTOS
If there's no note we don't know. Sorry.

COVER
Hands Tied, by Traci McMahon

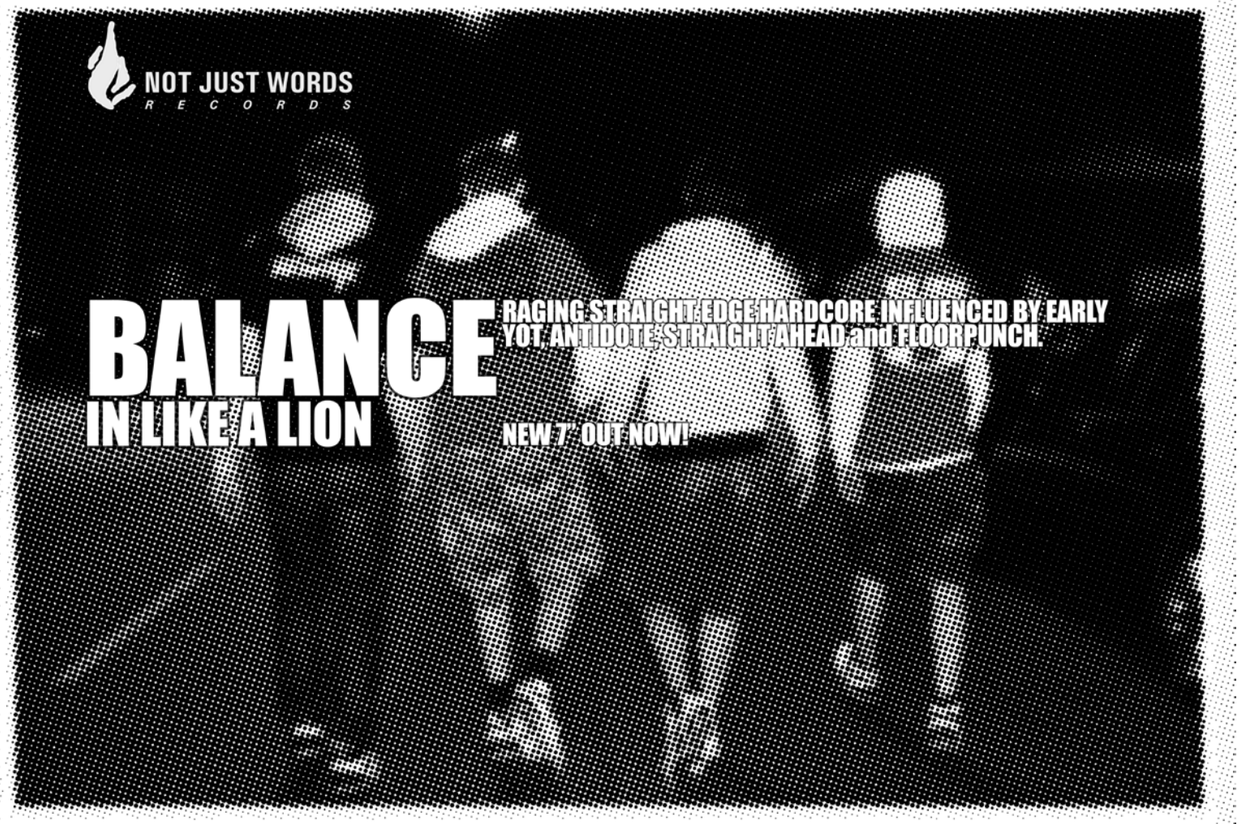
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K' PLAYLIST

Count Me Out
Chain Of Strength
A Tribe Called Quest
Hands Tied
Common Cause
Mange S.
ON
HOVA - live

U' PLAYLIST

Chain Of Strength
Turning Point
The Smiths
Moondog







CARRY ON

Photo: Andy Norton



GORILLA BISCUITS

Photo: Mangel



SOUL CONTROL

Photo: Mangel

REVIEWS

We're not that into reviews so this is just a small selection of records/zines that has been released recently.

Tysta Mari - Tjugo minuter över tre
CD
Wasted Sounds
wastedsounds.com

Since most of you probably don't know Tysta Mari, a punk rock band from Sweden, singing in swedish, I'm gonna name some bands: The Clash, Ebba Grön (yes, swedish I know, but more known among foreigners). Hands down, one of my favorite bands right now ("what? You listen to punk rock? I thought all you listened to were YOT. And perhaps TFS.") and has been since the "monument" EP (Red Angel Records) in 2006. Even though we had to wait for this record to come for about a year, I have to say that the time of this release (spring) is just about perfect, swedish summer and this kind of punk rock goes together like summer and ice cream. This debut full-length is truly worth to spend a few bucks on. Get into it!
Member of Social Pressure, another reason to pick this up.

The First Step - Connections
7"
Rivalry Records
rivalryrecords.com

All of you know The First Step and those of you who know me know I love them. This is the best band since In My Eyes and even though they're calling it quits at least they're going out with a bang. This (last) 7" is pure energy from the first chord to the last. Really nice package as well, you can tell what this band is about just by looking at the cover (although they're of course deeper than that). The lyrics are extremely inspiring and if you claim to love hardcore and don't have and love this record you're a poser. They truly are the YOT of our generation.

Damage Control - The Losing End
7"
Cycle Records
cyclerecords.com

Wow, it feels so weird to write a review about this record, it was recorded about 3 years ago I believe and I've had it on mp3 for a long long time but that it's finally on vinyl feels just about right considering how good this is. It's a true slap in the face of people who claim that DxC and the whole 'old-school' genre is about always sounding the same without no progression cause this is just the opposite of that. Compare this to their first 7" and it seems to be two different bands. Or, if you, like myself, followed them through the years they were a band it still feels like a natural sound for them.

The 20 pages insert really adds to the farewell this band deserves. Lots of pictures, forewords written by mr St. Germain, a list of every DxC show ever including some flyers and a goodbye note by Espen makes this record close to perfect.

Either way, this record deserves some attention, not because of who were in the band or anything like that but because this is fresh (despite the fact that it was recorded ages ago) and interesting yet traditional, powerful hardcore. It's a win-win situation.

Voice of a Generation
Zine
crucialresponse.de

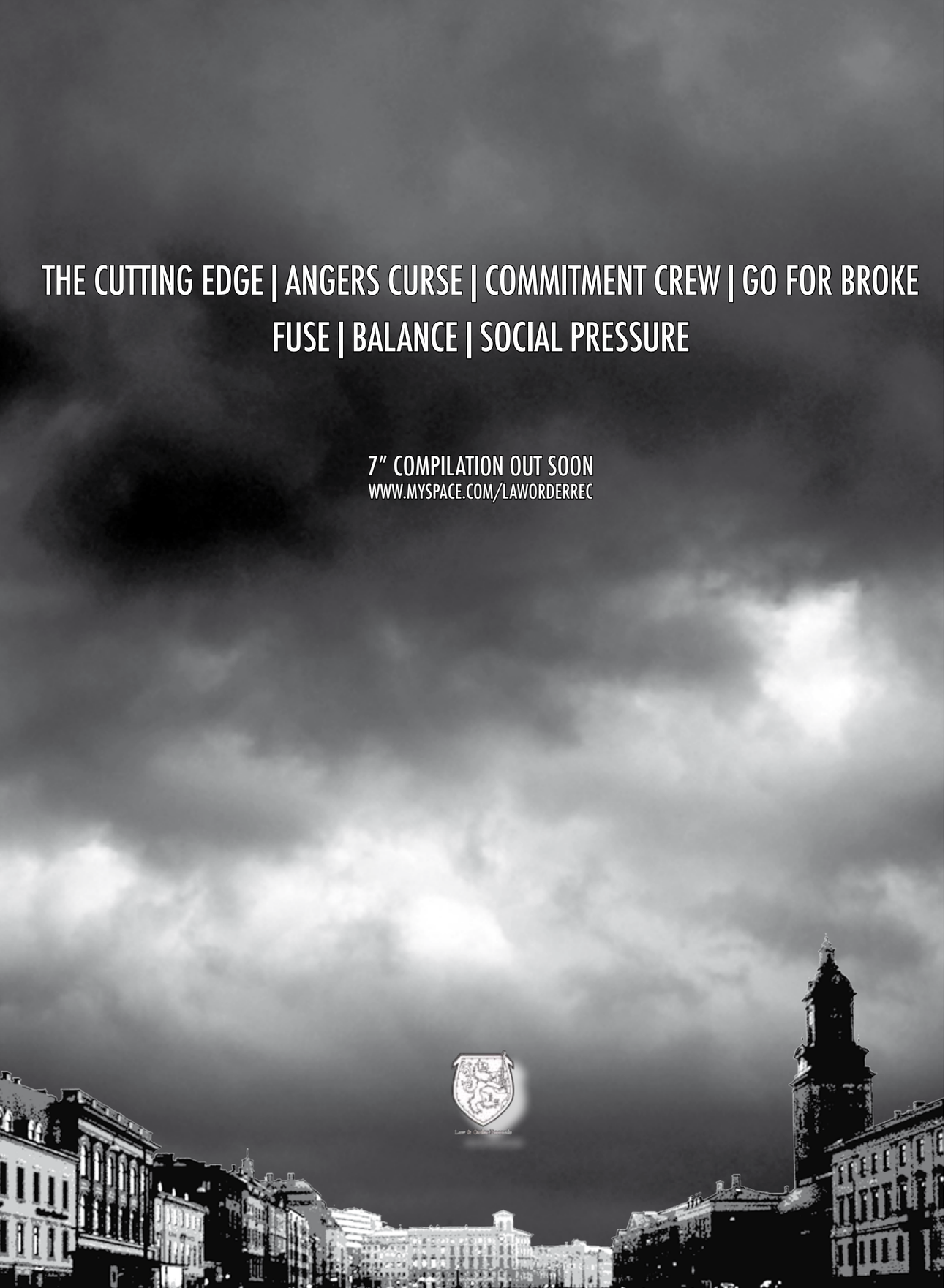
OK, the second issue of VOAG zine is here and this time it comes with the Sportwear demo as a bonus 7". So far so good, you gotta love sportswear, one of the most crucial (ha!) bands ever. Yes, ever. It features a huge interview with Sportswear/Onward main guy Peter Amdam. That's about it. Wow, that's some narrow minded shit right there. They start the zine by saying, and this is a quote; "We have cut down on some stuff (for example the reviews) to make sure we not only had ample space for this interview (it's huge...), but also ensuring room for tons of crucial photos." And while this is true, the interview is huge and the photos are crucial, I don't understand why this mean you have to cut down on other stuff. There IS an option to, I don't know, ADD more pages? Why only one interview, I mean if you're interested enough in hardcore to make a zine I'm sure there are more than one band/person (that split up a bunch of years ago I might add) to feature in the zine right? I'm not one to say "forget about the past", but hardcore is still alive in so many ways, there











are so many people, bands, labels and zines that are inspiring in the scene. Right here, right now. Especially considering they end the zine by saying: "Support hardcore". Ok, enough is enough, let's focus on the good parts. As I mentioned, the photos are crucial, the cover photo is insane, you can't go wrong with photos of Pressure Release, Embrace, SSD and more plus I do love the 'Wear, but all in all, you feel kinda like a kid on christmas getting like one gift, even if it's a great gift, you still want more. So do like they say and support hardcore! And make more zines people!

Keep It Clear
Demo
legitimatebros.com

Many bands have tried to sound just like Carry On but few have succeed I guess. These guys comes pretty close but throw some Far From Breaking in there as well and what you get is a really solid demo. 7" on Not Just Words up next.

On
7"
Self released

If you have no interested in reading a review which will contain no, what so ever, negativity then stop reading just about now. Here we go. I saw someone posted something about Jim having a new band, I believe it was on the LWR board or so but didn't pay that much attention to it, basically cause I'm not into listening to music through myspace or anything through my laptop really. Later on I read a short interview with Jim over at the Double Cross Webzine and that's when it came clear to me how amazing this band was. I listened to the songs at work over and over (and over and over) again and just thought to myself "damn, this band is bringing something fresh, they've got something to say and they're awesome dudes" (well, I've only met Jim). Some of my favorite parts of this recording: The chorus in "Generations", that kind of melodic singing fits both the music and Jim's vocals really well. The lyrics. Pissed off but with something to say. "There's no more revolution within these walls". True. Live. Yeah, I know I'll have to wait for a couple of months or so but damn, I can really imagine these songs will be about twice as good live as they are on record. And that says a lot.

Hårda Tider
2007 demo

First off, this is in Swedish, so most of you probably won't understand a bit what they're singing about, BUT for us swedes, this is a nice piece of plastic, containing songs about being proud of your hardcore scene, friendship, not forgetting where you come from and so on. Probably pretty "standard" issues, but they deliver them in a unique way with very straight forward lyrics that seem sincere and overall there is a feeling about this tape that makes me feel that these guys are really just really stoked about playing in a hardcore band. Musicwise, this is pretty fast hardcore with a punk edge. A solid demo, that makes me excited about the upcoming 7" on Not Enough recs.

Justice - Live and learn
12"
Powered records
poweredrecords.com

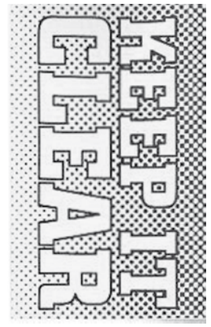
So Justice threw in the towel with this release, and it's quite a way to end the band. Six songs, that continue to go beyond the standards of hardcore, and Flip actually SINGS on one song, "Meaningless", which is probably my favorite song on this record, and maybe my favorite Justice song over all. These songs have a groove, awesome lyrics and a great Supertouch feel about them. Hats off for Justice, wheather you were into their stuff or not, these guys did it their way and they did it themselves. In my book, they're probably the most important european hardcore band, ever. Look out for Loud and Clear and Rhythm to the Madness.

Anchor - The quiet dance
LP/CD
Refuse Records / Catalyst Records

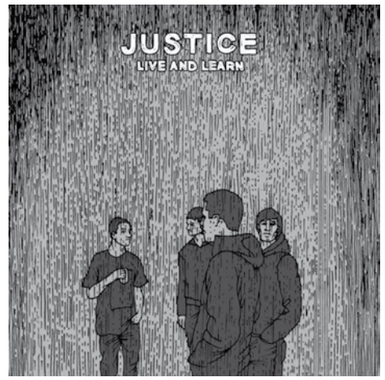
The saviour of Swedish hardcore? Perhaps, I don't know. They're definitely working their asses off to spread the message (of the bhagavat!) about animal rights though. I think they've done about 150 shows or something thus far, impressive to say the least. These guys love Strife, that's for sure and if that's a good or a bad thing is up to you to decide. I do think this record is way better than their previous material, mostly due to the vocals that are more "hardcore" and less "metal" now, it's feels more natural and raw this way.

Cold World - Dedicated to babies who came feet first
LP/CD
Deathwish Inc.

I don't know if I'm the right person to write this review. I mean, I find something about this band extremely good/funny/ but it's not really "my thing". I've only heard the 7" prior to this lp and it sounds kind of the same and besides, I think everyone who was into the 7" already have this. Bonus for MJB sample.
To sum up: Cool lp!











SOUL TO SELL

"Every single night I feel like it's my responsibility to get kids into our band, and I feel like it's my responsibility to say the right things... Yeah, we've got to sell merch..."

Sadly these words do not belong to some boyband clone. They are straight from the mouth of the vocalist in a hardcore punk band praised for their "eloquence, insight and intelligence" in the zine It Ain't All Hugs & Handshakes.

Dude, you're not a fucking merchandise salesman! And "if you're looking for the status, go back to your fucking high school", as Alone In A Crowd once so bluntly put it. High school is like that. The workplace is like that. Something for something. Buying and selling. Where nothing – and no one – is free.

DIY hardcore punk rock is your chance to escape all that bullshit. To play the music you want to play. To say what you want to say. No responsibility. No rules. No pressure. No tourniquet. This is our free haven, below the radar of the culture industry. All of us who feel afraid, alone, alienated, powerless and totally out of place within the confines of the mainstream. Us bricks who won't fit in their puzzle. Here we can be human beings. Not products. This is in our hands.

I really feel sorry for the poor guy. His cage is ripped open, yet his mind stays locked in.

Ignition once sang:

"At the point you feel failure
It's so easy to tell
You succumb to the desire
That turns soul into sell"

Well, this soul is not for sale.

Chuck Dukowski of Black Flag said he'd rather work a day job for the rest of his life than be dependent on his music for his living. With that attitude the band created some of the most inspiring music ever. More importantly, they helped build a community where our expression is exempt from capitalist dictates. Where the kids can have their say, not just their pay. Yet I see all these little children playing adult games. Moving units. Selling merch. Building a "fanbase". Adding "friends" on a website while adding to the huge profits of Rupert Murdoch and his Newscorp. empire. Marketing their band "for fans of" other bands. We owe it to ourselves to do so much more…

I've started a new band with some of my friends, called Strike A Match. No, we don't have to "sell merch".

We don't have a responsibility to say the right things.

We are not "for fans of" anyone or anything.

We will burn down such structures of separation, alienation and commodification.

We will strike a fucking match.

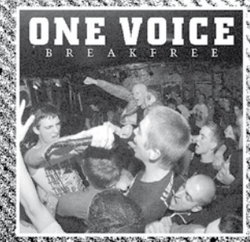
Write me a letter.
Erik Anarchy/Sight Beyond Sight zine
c/o Kaluza
Theresesgate 5 a
0358 Oslo Norway



Commitment Crew – Hisingen 7"
Hardcore became somewhat a synonym of no-soul, lackluster, over commercialization. But then there comes a band like Commitment Crew who is going back to basic. This band is in its purest form the essence of hardcore: simple and aggressive and in addition with some raw oi influences. A great mixture for sure!



Get The Most – Moment In Time 7"
Somewhere beyond the formalized spectrum there comes a band like Get The Most who strives for more than the usual. Blistering "youth crewish" hardcore, mosh parts in between, passionate lyrics and a slick layout. What more can you ask for?! The future is now; get on it.



One Voice – Break Free 7"
Listen to One Voice is an experience. The band is getting in a new territory of sheer power and aggression. Pushing old boundaries, establishing new limits. Speed, anger and commitment seems the theme of this band and One Voice knows how to pull good hardcore songs. Essential listening for 2007.

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LION OF JUDAH

Interview: Ahron, Ian, James
Photos: Mangel, photo layout by Kalle

Death toll rise, we're force fed lies
one more than none, wrong side of a gun
"people kill people," you tell me that's life
ever said it to a soldiers wife?
in a time of hate where fear is our fate
before our eyes people drop like flies
earth and i we don't get along
we always seem to sing a sad, sad song

can't understand, can't comprehend
the hating of my fellow man

no need for race, seems so out of place
skin always plays tricks on the eyes

spin my mind, leave it all behind
this revolution starts with one

give me your hand and we'll transcend
space and time, they don't mean a thing
give me your hand and I'll touch your soul
peace lives inside the most common man

can't understand, can't comprehend
the hating of my fellow man

no need for race, seems so out of place
skin always plays tricks on the eyes

spin my mind, leave it all behind
this revolution starts with one

give me your hand and we'll transcend
space and time, they don't mean a thing
give me your hand and I'll touch your soul
peace lives inside the most common man

universal peace
universal peace

never comprehend
never understand
hating my fellow man

U-N-I-V-E-R-S-A-L P-E-A-C-E

stir up commotion, bridge an ocean
leave this earth far, far, far behind
wise up, realize, set in motion
listen to what i have in mind

look into each other's eyes we elevate, this time we rise
some day I'll tell my daughter
that we all can walk on water

What's up with Lion Of Judah these days? You're hitting Europe again soon. Is that to support a new release or another tour on the LP?
I: Unfortunately we won't have a new release with us on this tour but we will be showcasing some new songs. Three additional songs were recorded during the "UNI P" sessions that will be released on a 7'' for Youngblood Records hopefully within the next 6 months. Respectively we have also been trying our hands at other musical ventures. You will be hearing from Warpriest and Give shortly, and maybe some more around the river bend.

Your sound go beyond the standard hardcore formula. Were you sure of how you wanted the band to sound, from day one, or did you "grow into" your sound?
A: In 2004 we really just wanted play what we would have liked to have heard from other bands. We were all just really into music and liked hardcore that got a little weird and strayed from the typical formula or just really sounded radical in some way or another. In 2008, we're still into doing that and with each recording we evolved and got more comfortable with each other and and became slightly more competent at our respective instruments. Also some songs on the demo were a direct attempt at trying to emulate particular bands instead of the more typical jamming out riffs into songs like we did on the LP.

Being quite different than most hardcore/punk bands today, muscally, lyrically and even layout-wise, what do you consider your influences? (Bands, writers etc.)
A: When I was a kid the Beatles, Beach Boys, the Police, and B52s were probably the bands that made me interested in music and Creedance Clear Water Revival's "fortunate son" is the song that made me want to be in a band. I should really try and be a little pickier in my tastes at this point because I try to listen to Genesis records for some reason. If I'm bringing a riff to practice then it is in the realm of Swiz, classic rock, 80s new wave, 90s alternative, NYHC, later DC bands, Touch and Go records, SST records, Sonic youth, etc. I mean a list of bands that don't influence me in some way would be a lot shorter but that doesnt mean I can actually play like any of those bands.

Can you give us some thoughts about the lyrics to U N I vs. All = Peace. Was it a particular occasion that made you write it? Do you remember where your were writing it?
J: I wrote U N I vs. All = Peace on my bed at my old apartment where I attended College. I was reading a book about the Civil Rights movement in the US and Martin Luther King Jr., at the time, which really opened my eyes to the struggles of people and the power of revolution and peace. There is no scale that can judge the value of human life.

What was it like to work with Don Zientara? Did you find each other on a musical level easily? Did he share any stories from recording early Dischord bands?
A: Don is really awesome and is really cool to work with. He has a pretty 'hands off' approach to recording but on the LP he did make a few suggestions and even pretty much wrote a guitar part which is really cool. He sets up the mixing board so we can get right on there and turn knobs and mess with levels ourselves, which is a lot of fun. I don't think he really told too many Dischord stories, though we didn't really ask. He is a really positive guy and has objective approach to recofding which is always helpful when recording.

Are you happy with how the LP turned out?
I: Satisfaction is the death of desire.

How does the song writing process work in Lion of Judah? Judging from your sound I'd guess it's more jam based than one guy coming to rehearsal with a finished song.
A: Yeah we just pretty much flesh out riffs that



either myself, Brad, or Ian has and then Gene (drums) kind of figures out how to make it more interesting and suggests some changes. He kind of acts as producer in that sense and is pretty good at making stuff sound a lot better then it actually is because he beats the crap out of the drums. It's probably not the ideal situation for him but it leads to a lot of unexpected choices and unusual directions which works for us most of the time.

How was the last European tour, in 2006? In sweden, you got to play two shows, quite the opposite of each other, one being sold out (Stockholm) and one where only two kids showed up (Linköping). Looking back, what are your thoughts about those shows?
I: That tour was an adventure. We were able to see some familiar faces in places like Austria and the U.K., make some new friends in Spain and Scandinavia, and venture to exotic locales like Croatia and Hungary. There were some serious booking issues and the usual van troubles but we played where we could, tied our exhaust pipe on with a shoestring (literally) and had a blast. The show in Stockholm was one of the best shows on that tour but I am a little sour about leaving my favorite pair of shorts behind at the club. Hopefully we are able to make it back and they will be waiting for me along with the pleasant club owner, pretty girls, and the guy in the Shawn Michaels shirt.

Also, how does it feel coming all the way from the US and having only two kids coming, even if it's a last second show?
I: I think of our shows not in terms of how many people we pleased but what percentage of the present audience. In the case of that show we did 100% and played a few heated rounds of hearts.

Some of you recently travelled in Europe. Did you get the chance to see more of the cities you visited on tour? What experience during that trip made the most of an impact on you, if any?
I: A few of us have been able to do some extra circular traveling, sometimes to areas we cannot reach on tour. I have been able to go back to a few of the cities we have played and do some much needed exploring but the experience with the largest impact was Morocco. Being fed curry eggs by a 60 year old woman with face tattoos who looked like her skin was falling off is not something that occurs in my everyday life. Had we been more fluent in the language of love, maybe I could have amended that. This was also while a random Berber farmer was helping us change a blown tire tread in literally the middle of nowhere and we notice he was wearing a Sick of it All soccer jersey. Berber head stomp.

You've been on a couple of different labels, how come you've changed? Have you experienced a big difference between the labels in the way they work, what they expect from you as a band and so on?
A: We were always on Youngblood from the beginning and Sean YB even came to our first demo recording sessions but Greg Mental really dug us too. He wanted a split to come out on Lockin Out between us and Iron Age after the two of us played our first shows in Austin, TX. Mental played that night too and they were into doing something different and releasing stuff that wasn't their "typical" sound or whatever. Iron Age dropped out of the split and our side came out as a 7 inch. A 5th song was recorded that same session specifically for the Revelation Records comp which we were asked to be on to showcase hardcore circa 2005. We had our cake and ate it too. If we only had that bulldog...



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PR04:	COMMON CAUSE 'Statement Of Purpose'	CD
PR05:	TRUE COLORS 'Focus On The Light'	CD
PR06:	JUSTICE 'Escapades'	SOLD OUT
PR07:	UNION TOWN 'Demo'	SOLD OUT
PR08:	RHYTHM TO THE MADNESS 'Soul Doubt'	7" EP
PR09:	TRUE COLORS 'Perspective'	7" EP
PR10:	JUSTICE 'Live And Learn'	12" EP
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Regardless of what bands these guys played in, or if you liked them or not, ON is a band that deserves your attention. Not many bands have the ability to burst out fast hardcore anthems like Generations, and taking the tempo down a bit too, as in Vital Times. ON manges to do both, and they do it well. ”There’s no more revolution inside these walls, what happened to the urgency that once filled these halls?” Questioning, and interesting lyrics. And, who doesn’t love Verbal Assault?

Introduce the band, who’s who, who does what - who did what, how did it begin and what were your main interest in donig another band after all the heavy touring with your previous bands?
- I’m jim, i sing, eric and ben play guitar, adam plays bass, and aaron plays drums. i guess it just has been awhile since our previous bands broke up and we all wanted to do something new. i know for me, i hadnt toured in almost 3 years, up until just recently with ON. its something in my life i was missing for sure. i always loved all the ”heavy” touring.

With Champion (and the other guys bands) you’ve toured pretty much all over the world, is that something you want to do again with ON? Starting Champion vs. starting ON, what are the main differences? Do you have the same feeling when you go to band practise as when you started doing bands?
- I would really like to tour some places that champion never got to. but we will see. this band is still at such a young stage. a lot needs to happen before we start jet setting across the world like go it alone and blue monday did. this band has come together a lot smoother than champion did. we were so young when we began champion, we had no idea what we were doing. ON is a lot different. we are much older and more experienced.

From day one, kids seemed very interested in what you were up to with ON, since all of you were in pretty ’’big’’ bands before, and of course your past efforts in the scene should be recognized. But there could be a negative side to it as well. Does all the ’’hype’’ bother you? I’ve heard that you had to put a ’’one per person’’-limit on the record at your first show. Do you consider this a problem in hardcore these days?
- It doesnt feel like there is that much hype. we get a little bit of attention because of our previous







bands, but we really go out of our way to not advertise it. i really just want people to be into the music and the message with no strings attached. when it comes to record release vinyl and things of that nature, i just dont think its fair to the people who actually came to the show. sometimes people will buy multiples of a record, just so they can sell it on ebay and then some kid in alaska has a record release 7" for a show he didnt even attend. it just defeats the purpose of the record, in my opinion.

Champion was around for quite some time for a hardcore band, so I'm sure you've experienced some ups and downs during those years. What is your least favorite part about playing in a hardcore band? What do you enjoy the most?

- My least favorite thing about playing in a hardcore band is dealing with violence at shows. my favorite is stage diving.

You seem to think that it's "more than music" - can you tell us something about the lyrics? How do you come up with a topic to write about and how do you "approach" it? Do you discuss the lyrics within the band?

- We do discuss lyrics in ON. its pretty cool actually. we are still writing a lot of materiel so we dont quite have a formula yet, but so far its been sweet. i write about the things that i feel passionately about. music is so important. i mean i could just jam to some instrumental music and totally feel it, but i also believe hardcore is "hardcore" for a reason. because its more than that. i guess i just feel that if we dont take advantage of the strength we have as a community by doing good things for the world, then hardcore is just another distraction like tv, drugs, or sports.

Have you decided yet whats next for ON? A full-length?

- Nothing is set in stone yet, but it looks like we are recording another 7" next week with 4 or 5 new songs. we are trying to get out east in the fall.

"Our planet is dying, our country is at war, people are starving, and you still don't have anything to fucking say? Give me a fucking break." - a quote from your interview with Double Cross, and though I may agree, shouldn't be OK to just "goof" around in hardcore as well, sing about what's important to you? Do you feel that bands should be more aware (or "political" if you may...)?

- I think the term "political" in hardcore has got a bad vibe. but i do think that people should think more about what they are writing about. im not saying every band should have to have some extreme views on things, all im asking is for bands to give a fuck. thats all. just care.

To you, what are the most important issues today, as far as war, starvation, economy etc etc?

- I think you just named it. i dont feel anyones problems are worse than others. we all deserve to be happy in this world. i mean thats what it really comes down to. just a lot of people are being robbed of that right. there is a lot of misery. on the flip side, there is a lot we can do about it. its just a matter of caring enough to try.

You seem to think that there is a problem with bands today not having that much to say. Though it's hard to say definitely, do you think that it's a matter of attitude , that it's "cool" not to care, and just "shut up and play" or rather rooted in fear of standing up for something, risking a clash of views?

- I think there is too many people concerned with their shoe and record collections, people too concerned with drinking and fighting, people too concerned with girls and moshing. but the big picture is being overlooked.

Besides older bands, where do you find inspiration, both musically and lyrically today? Any new bands you think don't get the attention they deserve?

- Keep it clear, Circles and Get the most are just a few newer bands that i support. since i havent been "out there" as much in the last few years i dont really know whats up and coming.

On a more personal level, you've been to Sweden quite a few times, could you tell us your best memory, or first impression, of when you came to Sweden, and Europe in general?

- Champion played at that cafe (Kafé 44) in stockholm the 2nd time. i think it was with CBK. we had a killer time. i loved sweden everytime we came. i cant wait to come back.

Any last words, records/movies/books/board games to recommend, anything?

- Code 46 is a great movie, open hearts clear minds is a great book, scrabble is a great board game, the new have heart is a great record. legitimatebros.com, log into it. Take care!





Friday 9AM

Rise and shine, pack the bags, get outta town. I'm on my way to Lund. With a bad cold I got on the train and my eyes get really fucked up when I have a cold, so for about three hours I sat on that train, looking like I was crying my eyes out. However, I arrived in Lund, and took the bus to the Hurtig house, where Ulrika met me. I unpacked some stuff, and decided to sleep in the monkey room. Oh, yes, there is a monkey room. One of the walls has paintings of palm trees, monkeys, camels and stuff on it.
Johan got home from work and we headed into town to buy some groceries. I wanted to buy some miracle medicine for my cold, but it looked kinda weird and was expensive as shit, and being unemployed since six months has a negative effect on the wallet, I tell you. Back home, we made some wok with noodles and ate until we dropped. After dinner, we headed for Henrik Skogs place, where we were going to watch some movie and eat a lot of unhealthy snacks. Music and Lyrics was the movie, and it was kinda sweet, in a Hugh Grant-british kinda way. I don't know if the movie was the best choice for the equipment we played it on. A huge projection screen on the entire wall, HD-DVD and sorround system. Would've been cool to have a Star Wars marathon there sometime. Oh, and Joel, Henriks brother, had bought a chocolate-banana soda. I tasted kinda funny, but I liked it. Got to bed later and we decided to wake up early to be able to spend some time in Gothenburg.

Saturday 8:30AM

Don't know if I woke up or if Johan woke me up, but it doesn't really matter. Again, I packed my stuff and we had breakfast before we (me, Johan and Ulrika) left the Hurtig building to pick up Joel (today without chocolate-banana soda) While Joel got his bags into the car me and Ulrika checked out a flee market that was near the parking lot. We found Joel a Europe record he didn't have for 5 SEK (which is less than a dollar) and a pair of vans that looked kinda gross so neither of us wanted to even poke them with a stick (I don't see why we'd want to do that, but you know..). We got back to the car, and drove off to Netto to buy about 30 cans of Hustler ("Underground cult energy drink for hustlers"), a lot of cookies and some other stuff. This mornings soundtrack was a mixed variety of Journey, Toto, Bracewar and Roxette. I have no idea who was in charge of that. We arrived in Gothenburg, met up with KallePMA and some other dude whos name escapes me right now. After a small discussion, we decided to walk into town, eat at Kellys and check out the sneakers at Shelta. And so we did, with the exception of eating at Kellys. Kellys was closed, so we got some tzay, mashed potatoes and mango sauce instead, SWEET. Kalle left to sleep in Casa de Smackdown. The rest of us got back to the car and drove off to B-gÅrden, home of Europes hardest band, Commitment Crew. There we pled some Nintendo Wii bowling, which Joel won, and I finished second, right before Ulrika. My cold had almost disappeared, which was very welcome.

Sunday uhm.. early.

We woke up, had some breakfast, and got outside to leave for Oslo. We discovered that parking guards actually work really weird hours, cause at 7 AM, a Sunday, someone had put a ticket on our car. Yeah, we didn't have enough change to pay the parking lot for the last two hours. An unnecessary expense, but we didn't care that much, we had a TFS show to look forward to that night. We stopped to eat at Frasses burgers on our way to the Norwegian border. We wanted to eat before we got there, cause everything in Norway is super expensive. I had a veggie burger and fries, but I couldn't finish my burger, cause it tasted really weird. Good fries, though. We made another stop to purchase some bread and chocolate butter to eat later that night. After some trouble finding a parking lot in Oslo City, we were finally there. We met up with Torgeir, Christian of Death aint Glam, Victor from Russia, Cesco from Holland and some other local kids. We went to the castle where Sportswear did their SSD run for the Keep it Together cover art. We hung out there for some time, looking at the view from there, which was quite breath taking. You can practically see the whole town from there. Later, we got to the venue and met some other swedish kids and norwegian friends. Death is not Glamorous opened the show, and they did it well. They played tight, and kids were into it. Common Cause were up next, and it was a pleasant surprise to meet Rafael (of Pointing Finger fame), who played drums for them on this tour. He did a good job, and Common Cause is still one of my favorite current hardcore bands. They played songs off their demo and 7", as well as one or two new ones, which sounded very promising. They also had a cool tour cover edition of the 7", which I picked up. They finished their set with Break down the walls, which is a pretty good way to end a set in my book. Now, what we all had been waiting for, THE FIRST STEP. Wow, I was so excited before they got on stage. I also talked to Victor from Russia about this, and he felt the same way. It was hard to keep a conversation going cause we just wanted to get up front to the stage to make sure we wouldn't miss a single chord or their set. They opened with Something Inside, and the place went mad. One of the best live bands I have ever seen. Stephen is such a great front man, and every word he sings and says rings sincerity. They finished their set with a cover of Youth of Today (the song - the band) and during that song, the mic broke, but the crowd wouldn't let TFS get off stage because of that. After some encouragement, they got back up on stage, and played Something Must Be Done by Antidote, with no mic, but it didn't make a difference, it was still awesome. Johan later told me that he had never seen me go off as hard as I did during this set. It's probably true, it was pure energy. After the show, we just realized that we had no place to sleep. We talked to Torgeir to see if he knew anybody that could fix it for us, and he would look around, but we didn't really have our hopes up and I started getting used to the thought of sleeping in the car that night. I talked a bit with Stephen TFS and said I loved their set, and looked forward to playing with them tomorrow,and I was pleasantly suprised when he replied "Yeah, bro! Go For Broke, I'm so excited to see you guys!". However, after a few minutes, Torgeir and this other kid steps up to us and says that the problem is solved. We'll sleep at this kids house. His parents were out of town for a couple of days and he had room for us one night. Plenty of room it turned out, cause that house was fucking huge. Once we got there, I asked if I could use the bathroom to take a shower, and he says "sure" and shows me where the bathroom is. I open the door and there is a freaking jacuzzi in there. Me and Kalle could not stand the thought of having the opportunity to take a jacuzzi bath and not do it, so we frankly asked if we could, and he said it was no problem. So there we were, in our underwear, sitting in a jacuzzi in a luxurious house in Osly City, with this kid we just met a couple of hours ago, it's 2 AM and we just saw The First fucking Step. Hardcore, man - it takes you places. After the bath, we had a couple of sandwiches and then got to sleep.

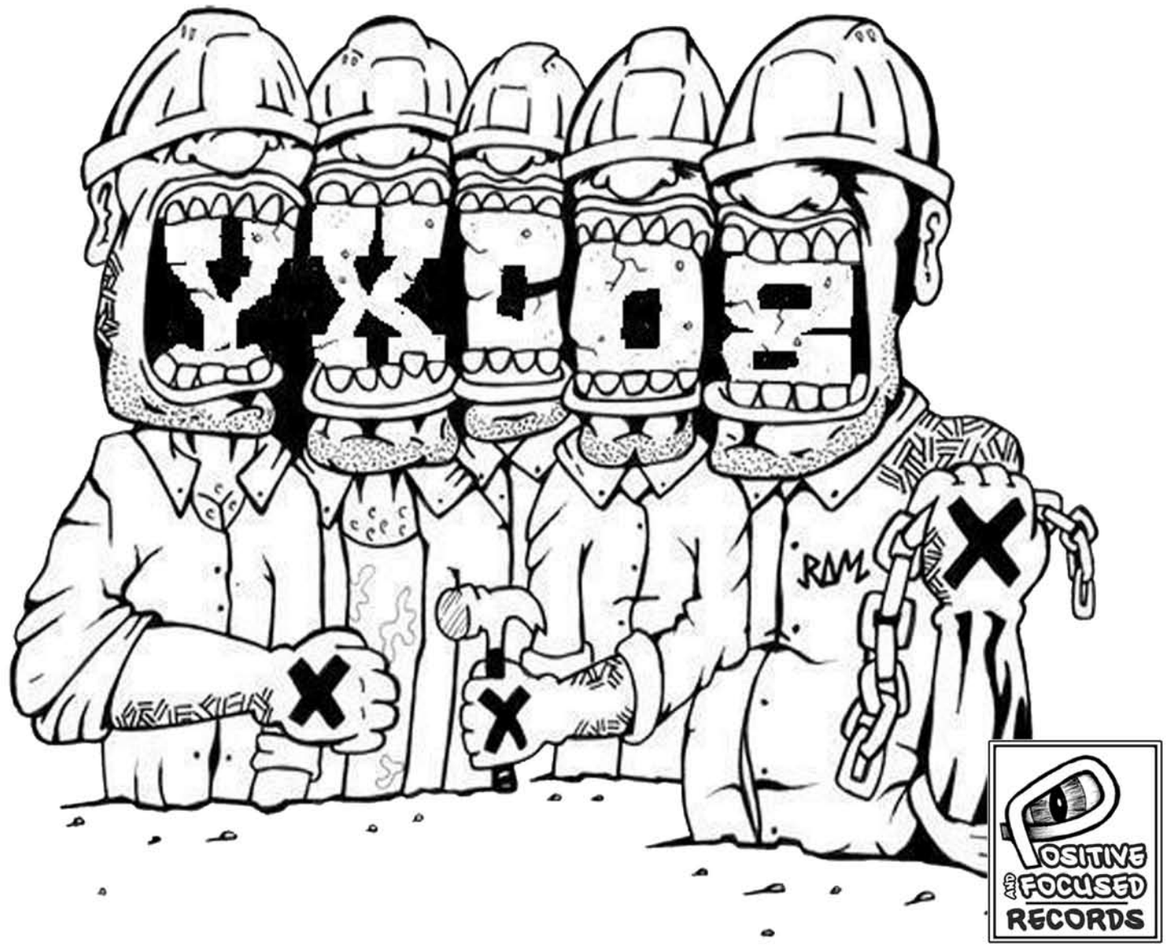
Monday, again pretty early.

After a good nights sleep we woke up and started getting all our stuff out to the car and getting ready to leave for Stockholm. We ate some sandwiches with chocolate butter from the night before, a few cans of energy drink and pepsi max, and we were good to go. It felt good to be on the poor side of the border once again. After a couple of hours in the car we started to get really hungry, and decided that we had to get some lunch, and it had to be at Max hamburgers. The closest was in Örebro, so that's were we went. After some trouble finding the place we finally got there and we all ordered a Green Meal. This was way better than Frasses the day before. With stomachs filled with fast food we continued the drive to Stockholm, and got there a couple of hours before the show started. I went to the venue to meet up with Go For Broke for rehearsal and hanging out. The rest of the roadtrip crew hit town for something to eat. The rumour had

it that our 7" was going to show up any day now, but we didn't really believe it, cause it was so delayed we doubted it would get through in time. Kalle had not received anything in his mail, but he and Alex decided to drive to the post office just to make sure they didn't have it there. So me and Ante hung out in front of the venue, when I see this piece of paper right in front of me, and I think it's just some piece of trash, and don't give it another thought. A couple of minutes later, I look at it again and I notice that this is not trash, it's money. And a lot of it too. So in front of me was a 1000:- bill, which is about 150 bucks. I picked it up, and wanted to do the right thing, so I asked Peter who put on the show if he had dropped it, and it was meant to pay the bands or something, cause you never see these bills, you don't get them at the ATM in sweden, you have to go into the bank and make a withdrawal in there to get them. But Peter is an honest guy, and said that it wasn't his, but told me to ask another guy about it, since they were currently giving the venue kind of a makeover, painting the walls and stuff, so maybe it was the guy in charge of that who had dropped it, but it wasn't his either. So I'm stuck with a 1000:- bill that noone wants. I can live with that. Me and Ante go inside to rehearse some new riffs and wait for Kalle and Alex to show up. And they do show up, carrying a big brown box and two huge smiles - the records did get here in time for the show. So all of a sudden, it's our release show and I'm super psyched. We made our soundcheck and it felt good. TFS and CC showed up, and the doors opened. A lot of kids at this show, some new faces, a lot of familiar ones. Kids from Russia, UK, Holland, Finland, Norway, Denmark and I don't know what else. We got on stage and announced that our records were here, this was our release show, and then starting playing. We got a pretty good reaction from the crowd, and kids seemed to be happy for us that the records finally had arrived. We did our thing, played a Hard Stance and an In My Eyes cover, and we were done. We sold quite a lot of records and some shirts, which was cool.

The Kind That Kills played after us, and they were as good as always and played a Straight Ahead cover, super sweet. Peter had some really short shorts on, which almost revealed a little bit too much but never did. Maybe the old tape trick? Anyhow, Common Cause played next, and they were as good as last night. The fact that they're around and are as good as they are makes me miss Damage Control a little bit less. They played BDTW tonight too, and then left the stage. The First Step again, I can't say how happy I was to be able to catch them two days in a row. They were as awesome as last night. And they played a new one, Connection, too. It sounded really sweet. They played Youth of Today again, with Torgeir singing, and you could tell that he was excited about that. He's one crazy kid, that's for sure. After the show I hung out with my friends, sold some more GFB records and then we decided to head home. The road crew had now gained a member, Mike Mechanix, Mike with the camera, Mike with the hitter, it's your choice. So from Stockholm to Strängnäs we travelled six in a small car which was crowded already when we were five in there. We got to Strängnäs, dropped off Ulrika who was to sleep at her parents place. On our way out of there, we got pulled over by a cop car. They wondered what we were doing in Strängnäs at that time of the day (or night, to be precise). Kalle said that we had just dropped off a friend, then realized that we were five in the car, and quickly changed his story without the police man noticing. We asked for directions to the highway and they wished us luck to find our way home, no trouble there. 200kms later we were in Linköping, which was where me and Mike got off. We had nowhere to sleep, but that problem got solved pretty soon, as we could sleep in some friends appartment. They had moved out, so it was completely empty, but they hadn't handed over the keys yet, so we got there and put our sleeping bags on the floor and talked about how awesome the day had been, and how awesome my weekend had been. I started out in Linköping, got to Lund, went to Gothenburg, Oslo, Stockholm and then Linköping again. And during these days I drank chocolate-banana flavoured soda, took a jacuzzi bath in Oslo, found big money on the streets of Stockholm and now I'm in an empty appartment with nothing but me, Mike and two sleeping bags in.

Life is good.





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COMMON CAUSE

Photos by **Magnus Larsen**

A band that most likely need no introduction. Or should we say – "A band that hopefully need no introduction"?

Common Cause hail from Norway, Oslo City to be precise and yes, they've been in bands such as Damage Control, Eyeball, Spawn, Shipwrecked and so on and on. This is not why they deserve your attention however, believe us when we say that this band is in no need of the whole "ex-members of" hype.

We talked to guitarist Jon A to figure what Common Cause was about, how it all started and what the future holds.

Without even having heard a single tune off the new L.P. we're pretty damn sure it'll be one of the best in 2008. That's how high our anticipations are for this record.

Don't be 'too quick to judge'!

How did the idea of Common Cause appear in the first place?
J: The way i remember it, the idea kind of started during a night of watching old show-videos at Daniel's place. I guess what sparked it was watching old videos of bands like YOT and Chain and realizing that there weren't really any bands around (at least in our corner of the world) doing just full-on unapologetic straight edge hardcore anymore, and it sort of bummed us out. There was Damage Control, but as great as they were, they were always more on the melodic tip, more Supertouch than Hard Stance, to put it that way. So the initial idea was just to do a total straight edge band. Obviously that idea changed a little, since we were never a straight edge band, but the music is pretty much just the way we envisioned it, i think. The plan at first was to just do it as a project, as we had other bands as well, but with the demise of Damage Control, and Shipwrecked and Soulfire kind of fizzling out as well, it just naturally became a bigger priority.

Did you know who you wanted in the band right away?
J: I don't really remember... I don't think it was a conscious plan of who would be in the band, it was more just a no-brainer who we wanted, and who would be right for the band. The pieces kind of fell into place naturally.

The band got off to pretty hectic start with lot of hype from pretty much day one. Did you ever expect such great response?
J: Not to sound cocky, but yeah, i did expect people to be into us. Simply because we play great hardcore, and if people like hardcore, they'll probably like us. I don't write most of the music anyway, so i think i can say that without being too full of myself. If i wasn't in the band, Common Cause would be one of my favorite hardcore bands right now. As for "hype", i'm not sure if we ever really had it... Depends on how you define "hype", i guess. The way i think of it, at least in the context of the hardcore-scene, hype is a fleeting thing that has less to do with quality music, and more to do with being at the right place at the right time, having the right look/image, having a few clever catch-phrases that kids can put on their MySpace-profiles or whatever. Sometimes the music is great as well, sometimes it isn't...but the bottom line is that i would rather just play music i like and have people like or dislike us based on that. "Hype" and "gimmick" are two words that are too closely associated with each other in my book. Besides, bands that get a lot of hype usually bring something new to the table (or rehash something that no one had thought of yet) anyway, and i think we're far too conservative for that.

What was it like working with Powered? Did you already know when you had the 7" out that they would release the LP as well?
J: It certainly wasn't long after the EP came out that we started discussing doing an LP with them as well. It wasn't something that we (or at least i) really thought about, it just felt natural. They did a great job with the EP, we're happy with them and they're (hopefully) happy with us, so shopping around for another label, didn't, and doesn't, really seem to make sense.

Were there any other labels interested?
J: There were a few. Within a few hours of posting some songs on MySpace, we actually already had a few offers or at least labels that were somewhat interested. I think part of the reason we went with Powered was that they were a pretty new label (at that point, i think all they had put out was the Loud & Clear 12" and the Justice 7"), and it was a nice opportunity to go with a label that hadn't yet "defined" itself, and to grow with them, so to say.

Shipwrecked never did a lot of shows or anything like that whilst CC seems to get out as much as possible was it something that held Shipwrecked back, or was touring never something you aimed to do?
J: We would talk about touring and playing out, but it just never happened. Any band needs a band-nazi to get things done, and Shipwrecked never really had one. We weren't really on the same page about things like that either, i think. Ollie was more into just writing songs and recording them, rather than spending several weeks in a van. The rest of us were into it, i guess, but it was probably more like "yeah, we should tour, that might be fun", rather than a genuine passion for it, or a motivation to make it happen, and thus, it never happened. I think we only played two shows ever. I wish we had played out more, because i didn't really feel like we did all we could have done with that band, but as Shipwrecked started fading, Common Cause were already starting to get going, so i suppose my priorities and interest switched over to that instead, for better or for worse.













Your lyrics really deal with 'real issues', racism, showing respect, being there for friends etc. Do you think there are too many bands nowadays that just don't put any effort into their lyrics?
J: I'm sure they do, but there aren't many bands out there that really do much for me lyrically. It's not even what they say, but more how they say it, i think. I might agree with what they say, but it won't make me go "fuck, that's so right on". Writing good hardcore-lyrics is hard though. Which is why i don't do it, haha.

We all know playing in a band isn't always "the best of times", have CC been through any rough times?
J: Nothing outside of the ordinary, i would say. Long drives, losing money and playing shows where it feels like noone really cares whether you're there or not is, needless to say, not the most gratifying thing in the world. But that said, we've had an easier time than a lot of other bands, things have all in all gone very smoothy, sometimes i even feel a bit spoiled by being in a band that in some ways has gotten a lot of things handed to us on a silver platter. There are obviously bands that work harder than us for less than we've gotten so far.

Is there any tension within the band between members and so on?
J: Not at all, really. We might argue now and then, but never anything serious that isn't settled within a few hours. I was actually a bit worried when we first went on tour, as it was my first time on the road with a band, because i tend to value having time to myself, so i wasn't really sure how i would feel about living on top of 4-5 other guys for a couple of weeks. But it all went surprisingly well, really.
We're all pretty level-headed and calm guys, so there isn't really that much to argue about, all in all.

Norway has a great tradition of hardcore bands, from Svart Framtid to Tiebreak and Sportswear to your own bands, why do you think this is?
J: I've thought about that a bit, but i haven't really got a good answer. Norway is a country made up of lots of small towns, with a lot of bored kids, some of which decide to start bands (or at least that's what they used to do, now they get into cars or crystal meth instead, i guess), some of which are bound to turn out to be good. But that's true for a lot of countries, so that's neither here nor there, kind of. Maybe it's just that we usually don't have weird accents.

How's the scene in Norway these days? As an outsider looking in I get the feeling it's very "united"?
J: The scene here...sucks. Hate to say it, but it's true. No one does anything anymore. No bands, no shows, no zines, no nothing. At least if we're talking about "straight edge hardcore", or US-influenced hardcore as you might call it. There's a pretty decent scene for more punk/crust type bands, which is cool, but the part

of the hardcore-scene i've always felt most cloesly associated with is in a sorry state. I'm as big a part of the problem as anyone else though, i don't do much besides the band, so i'm not pointing fingers. Maybe i'm negative, but fuck it, as Roger would say, it's just the god-damn fuckin' truth.

Swedish hardcore has often been laughed at from your side of the border, is that something that still happens, or do you think we finally "got it"?
J: I don't really know about that, to be honest. As long as i've been involved with hardcore, Swedish and Norwegian bands have always played together and supported each other. Roadtrips to Sweden to see bands, even if it's just some tiny show with 20-30 people in a rehearsal-space has always been good times for me. I'll admit that i'm not good enough at keeping up with what's going on over there, but that goes for anywhere, not just Sweden. And if i listen to a Swedish hardcore band, it's pro-bably more likely to be Mob 47 or Svart Parad than a straight edge band. Seems like there's a good scene going over there these days though, you guys must have figured out something that Norway didn't.

Tell us about the new LP? Was it hard writing songs to fit a full-length? Was it the obvious step for you to take, an LP instead of another 7"?
J: Well, i didn't write too much of the stuff for the LP, except some bits and pieces here and there, so that's more of a question for primary songsmith Daniel. It just felt like a natural progression to do an LP, i think. If you do a demo, you want to do a 7". If you do a weekend-trip, you want to do a full tour. If you do a 7", you want to do an LP. It's a lot har-der to make a good hardcore LP than a hardcore 7", so it's sort of the next step on the ladder, if you want to push things forward.

What can we expect, sound wise?
J: Just more of the same really... No reinventing wheels here.

You're also doing the LP on React Records, how did that happen? What can we expect from that release ex-cept a different logo on the back?
J: The release on React! is actu-ally going to be a 12" with the demo and the 7", not a U.S. press of the LP. So expect that, with a different lyricsheet, some nice li-mited vinyl and an exclusive shirt-design.





CHAIN OF STRENGTH



BLACKLISTED

Photo: Mangel

WE SCREAM TO SAY

Another useless complaint on a message board, another one stands in line to say that ”the new stuff ain’t good”, ”he or she sold out”, ”this or that ain’t core.”, all this in a scene that prides itself for being open minded and different, in a scene where we at the same time seem to fear change and individuality. Hardcore punk rock is unique in the sense of being a progressive style of music, while it has not changed that much over the last 25 years. Over the years we heard the late 80’s bands talking about being ”true till death” and then the late 90’s bands singing about how the older bands ”didn’t stand behind their words”, and how THEY would never change, just to repeat the same history just a couple of years later. We’re spinning the same wheels, and it gets us nowhere.

Changes are what makes us what we are, what we were and what we will be. You and I are not static. As we live, we learn, we grow, we reflect and we change. It is beyond our control, and it is the very beauty of life. You never know what’s around the bend. As hardcore kids, we are too quick to judge different ideas. Progressive minds have always been what’s taken this style of music one step further and who are we to not explore the next step? The classic hardcore formula, the ”’88 youth crew sound” will probably always stay about the same, and I love it that way, but we need to realize that though we are part of a collective scene, it is still to each his own to do whatever he/she wants with it. It’s so easy to write off something when it doesn’t fit the mold, but that’s where I wonder, when did we stop daring?

Hardcore was always for the outcasts, for the ones who didn’t fit the mold they were forced into, so in this scene where we found our place, are we going to judge the ones who dare to explore new ground? It is so much easier to hate what we don’t understand then to embrace, explore and learn from something new. We must be louder than the haters.

Ulf, 2008

”I’ve seen some change so fast
it was in a flash
will their sincerity last?
As soon as the next bandwagon
rolls along
their old feelings will be gone
They’ll be moving on.”
Outspoken - A light in the dark

Within hardcore and punk, or probably any subculture for that matter, peoples changes are more visible for the human eye than ones done by ’normal’ people. Breaking edge? People will notice. Selling out? People will notice. No longer vegetarian? People will notice. People will notice and people will talk behind your back. But the fact is that people will change, the question is why? Why, and for what reason? There’s a big difference between ’growing’ and ’changing’ but if you ask me it seems both are inevitable.

People will always look up to whoever for whatever reason and they will do what he/she does, monkey see monkey do, and if that person dislikes something, then that’s the new rule to obey.

Whenever a new band makes it, it seems every single person involved in hardcore has to either hate or love that band, hate it means ”they’re not doing it right” and love them means you have to ”become” what they are. We’ve seen it with Mental, we’ve seen it with WHN?, with Hands Tied and American Nightmare, we’ve seen it with more bands than I can possible remember (and by no mean is this any fault of the bands themselves) and when you’re into that new band and the scene that comes with the new band (or bands) it seems you can’t enjoy other parts of hardcore and punk anymore. Until 1-2 years later when another band is more hip, it’s time for a change of wardrobe and ideals.

And because of this, in the world of ”being true” and in a lot of ways finding one’s inner self, more and more people choose to walk down a path of less individuality and become more and more a slave to trends. Yes, bands come and go and there’s really no point in not being into new bands but is there some unwritten law that for every new band you’re into an old one have to be disliked to fit the new ”you”? ”Bold sucks”, ”it’s been done before” are common phrases in today’s hardcore scene whilst a few years ago that same person would go ape shit if a band played a Bold cover.
Is this as far as we’ve come in our search for individuality? In our quest for freedom? I always thought that hardcore and punk kids were sick of the normal life where everyone is a slave to trends and whatever’s ”hip” at the moment and this was our way to distance ourselves from that. If this is it, I can’t relate nor do I want to relate. I’ll find my inner self my way and you, well do what’s best for you.

”They say that I do nothing new just because I stayed true”

Kalle, 2008

YOU BETTER LISTEN

”How come you’re vegetarian?” Well, shouldn’t the question be ”how come you’re a meat eater?” I’m not the one choosing violence, blood and death over peace, chocolate soy milk and happy endings so why should I be the one whose motives are questioned?

I know why I chosed this lifestyle, did you ever think about yours or is it just more convinient since it’s the easy way out and (for some reason) more socially acceptable?

Life vs. Death is never as obvious and clear as at the supermarket, it’s right there in front of you and it’s a choice you can make everyday. There’s no need to support cruelty.

”You know the numbers, you got all the facts. How many deaths do you need to react?”

Think about it! Stop the violence - go vegetarian!

Kalle, 2008

GET THE MOST

From Legitimatebros.com:
”The goals of the group were to do a fun band paying tribute to some of their favorite bands of yore (Youth Of Today, Insted, Uniform Choice, Unity, Unit Pride…) and to ’get wild’ with the live show.”

Obviously, that’s what Get the most does, and they do it well. To keep the train of ”traditional” sounding hardcore going without being a boring clone is a challenge, but these guys don’t have to worry. Energetic, intelligent and inspiring hardcore, with tons of Youth of today and OC hardcore influences, done with style. **Kyle** took some time to answer our questions.

Being involved in quite serious bands, was there any hesitation about starting another band? Did it turn out the way you thought it would?
- We started GTM as a side project from our other bands. We went into it knowing we wouldn't be touring much(if any) and didn't have many expectations other than to have fun. The band turned out perfectly for two reasons, we enlisted our friends to play whom were very interested in the style we were playing, and it turned out to be very enjoyable to play instruments we weren't used to (Kram on drums, me on vox).

Did you know right from the start that "this is what we'll sound like, these are the covers we'll play and these are the dudes for the band" or was it more like "let's do a band...." and everything turned out the way it did?
- It was pretty easy to know who was going to be in the band, it was just a matter of convincing them to do the band despite living two hours from eachother. The sound we are trying to go for is more or less an ode to california bands of the 80's like Unity, chain of strength and Insted. One focus was to celebrate that older style and to avoid sounding overly modern. It turned out sounding pretty good in my opinion. Our recordings were alot of fun to do and live the band is just a ton of great energy.

Playing the style of music you do isn't always positive (no pun intended), it most be the most looked-down-upon style within hardcore, have you had your share of shit talk?
- We haven't experienced much of any negative feedback about the band other than people thinking we aren't very original. But original wasn't what we were going for in the first place so no big deal. Youth crew is a great style of hardcore because once you get past all of the "cliches" and uniformity, there can be some real issues addressed.

Do you care about what people are saying or do you try to shake it off?
- I am not too sure what you mean by what people are saying, maybe people are saying a lot of shit but who cares? I don't care honestly. I can't waste too much energy worrying about stuff like that. We got other things to worry about.

I mean, people talking about "youth crew" bands "bringing nothing new to hardcore, being cliché, only caring about bold-shirts and sneakers" etc etc...
- I have yet to hear this, but here in the US there isn't that many youth crew bands. There are far more tough sounding or thrashy bands than anything.

How's the scene in Canada for your style of core at the moment? What's the scene in Canada like in general?
- The scene in Canada is hard to gauge because it's a big country and I only lived in the west side of it. For the style that we play, I don't know of any other bands similiar to us. In general, Canada only has a handful of big cities so it's not really a hotbed of hardcore like the US is.

Style-wise what's your favorite band ever??
- I think Youth Of today style wise, in their songwriting, message, live show, aesthetic is about as good as it gets.

Perfect outfit to play a show in? from head to toe!
- shorts are the only important thing to mention.

Top 3 shirt designs!
- top three designs from other bands I suppose you are asking.
Uniform choice straight and alert wishingwell shirt
Classic Bold shirt
Chain true til death design

A lot of your lyrics deal with 'not getting in line', do you feel it's important to stay young as long as possible, and to play in bands, tour, do whatever in order not to 'lose our minds'? You think you'll ever stop playing in bands and being involved in music somehow?
- Well staying young mentally is a great thing definitely and so is accomplishing goals you set out to do. Playing in bands is a good way to have a creative outlet and a good vehicle to travel the world. I think we will always be involved in hardcore whether it's playing in bands, do shirt screening, record layouts, collecting records, putting on shows etc. There are so many rewarding aspects to hardcore.

"Material desires" deals with trends which is quite funny since hardcore kids are usually slaves to trends more than anyone, at least that I know. Is the song about people in general or about the hardcore scene?
- The song is focused towards to people in general and how putting on a front and being ultimately concerned with what people think of you leads to a lot of fake people, which I don't care for.

I heard that you recently moved (or is about to move) to the US. How come? If you have already moved, what do you experience to be the biggest differences compared to living in Canada? And if not, what do you expect these differences to be?
- I moved to the US to get married to my now wife Anna. I think the country is so very divided politically (right and left). I never thought about politics in Canada because it wasn't on the tips of everyone's tongues like it is here.

Will this make a difference for GTM?
-Not really it just means there is only one member in Canada. So practicing is about as infrequent as before.

How come Mark left the band? Is Aaron in full-time or are you looking for a new drummer?
- Mark left the band to pursue other projects. Aaron is in the band but we don't do anything "full time".

You have plans for an LP?
- Yes, we are slowly working on it. We don't have any deadlines to meet so when it happens it happens. So far we have about 6 songs so it's looking good thus far and we are excited to do it.

You did your 7"s on Germany's finest, will the LP be put out on Crucial or will React take care of it from now on?
-The US LP will be coming out on REACT! records and the Euro Vinyl will be handled by Powered records.

You were on the One Kind Word compilation (Vol. 2). Do you get a lot of offers regarding compilations? Have you noticed any difference regarding interviews in fanzines, offers about compilations etc. from the demo to the 7"s?
- We actually do get quite a bit of offers to be on comps. I think we have been asked to be on 5-10 so it's not that many.

What happened when you cancelled the European tour?
-Touring Europe costs so much money and we were 100% sure we would be losing thousands of own dollars by going so we opted to not go. It would be nice to go one day though.

Some of you have been here before with other bands, what's your impression of the European hardcore scene? You think GTM would do good over here?
- I have been over there a couple times with previous bands and I had a wonderful time. I think what is different about European hardcore's scene versus over here is there you guys are more interested in traditional hardcore i.e. celebrating the old bands, doing zines etc. Over here it's more about being cool and staying up with the latest trends and bands, which I think we are too old for.



You mentioned that the European kids seem to be more aware of hardcore history and being interested in old bands. Not exclusively for europe though, do you think there is a problem with kids being too caught up in finding the most obscure old bands, and by doing that, are neglecting their own local, contemporary scene?

- I think it can go both ways, yeah. I just don't ever see kids like that. Hardcore is like sheep, whatever is popular is what the kids like. Obscure old bands sound more interesting to me than the same hyped out bands. I think the most important thing is to know the roots of hardcore, to know the classic bands. Whether or not you collect vinyl or spend a lot of money trying to get a bad brains test press or whatever is up to you but it's not a necessity. But on the other hand, we can't all ignore good current bands in our scene, it's impossible to have a gorilla biscuits reunion in your hometown scene every week.

Are you putting a lot of thought and effort behind your shirt designs, or is one of you in charge of that and you go for whatever he comes up with?

- We don't put a ton of energy into the designs. Obviously we want them to look good but we don't hire someone to do it for us. They all have our logo and some live photos on them. Ole is the man who is in charge of desiging merch, and then him and ACE print the shirts. I usually come up with ideas here and there too.

Any last words, shout outs or good advice?

- Shout out to the Legitimatebros family, keep it clear, black breath, column, fired up, mindset, right idea, ON, common cause, REACT!, crucial response, Powered and everyone who has been supportive of this band. Thanks!



JUSTICE

Photo: Mangel



appear on it which would seal my vote for best release. I listened to Rev 1-20 (aside from #13) a ton for years as a kid, still some of my fave bands. My first two hardcore purchases ever were Judge's BID and YOT's Can't Close My Eyes, but I can't get into Rev's reissue release of CCME later on in life cause they ruined the sound. And yes, I do give Nate crap.

Battery you say huh? Explain further please (Not giving you crap, just geniunly curious how one picks Battery over say Chain or SBS?).
Nate: I'm a guy who associates records with the times and places I was in when I first heard them. To be a new jack 12 or 13-year old kid and hear Battery and In My Eyes, just set it off for me. These were also more accessible at the time because they were new releases and people were excited about that wave of bands. I went from more punk records into current youth crew of the 90's, mostly rev, livewire and victory releases, the stuff that was easy to find, into the back catalogs later on down the road. I guess over the years, it just stuck and now I have zero street cred...If you'd asked, "what's the best old rev record," I'd still have voted for YOT 'Break Down the Walls' though because I heard that at a rad time in my life.

Unlike many bands, you don't have a myspace page. Is that a stance you've taken against the "top 8" and " new friend requests" that otherwise is so common within hardcore today, or did you just find it easier to keep a blog updated?
JM: I never thought of it as a "stance," but I didn't want Right Idea to be just another band with a myspace page. In general I think the band kinda embodies a different time and place than the "scene" typically exists in today. So some things that would seem like "musts" aren't really that big of a deal to us. The blog gives us a chance to still interact digitally with each other and our friends even when we don't have a new show or record to talk about. Not having it be a part of the big social network system means we're not soliciting people who don't want to know, or couldn't give a shit about us or our friends and hxc. If-you-cared is there for those who want it. It gives a little bit of personality to our web presence, I guess, without us having to cow-tow.
Nate: The blog keeps it content heavy rather than just audience-based. We can interview friends and fellow core peoples, review records and put news up without having people go straight to the pictures section.
Chuck: It's 2008, get with it.
JH: John's answer sums it up. Personally, I could do without the blog even, I'm kind of in my own world living at my own pace. I would rather learn about bands through friends giving me mix cds, seeing them live or through zines...which are rare these days. Part of what attracted me to hardcore was how hidden it was from what I perceived as the 'normal' world as a kid. The search for discovering new bands or finding live sets of old bands years later after hearing they may have existed ruled, the waiting made me appreciate everything so much more. Don't get me wrong though, I love technology at the same time. Now I can't get enough of certain boards and blogs, especially the new Double Cross and Sound & Fury blog spots. Gordo and Tim deserve constant praise for DC and maybe one day my interview I did for them will see the light of day ha.

How have the first bash of shows been?
JM: All the shows have been awesome! Some of the best reactions for early shows of any band I've been a part of.
Nate: Cleveland kids have the "Right Idea" and I'm/we're stoked to have such loyal friends who come to almost all of the shows wherever they may be. It may be cliche, but we owe everything to our friends around Ohio and points elsewhere.
Chuck: RI first shows have been personally my first shows playing in a band. They have been great thanks to all of our loyal friends who have supported us from the beginning.
JH: The crowd is what makes our shows awesome. It's cool to look into the crowd up front and see smiles on kids faces. I don't care if we aren't even your thing I just want people to have a good time during our sets. That means if you could care less about our message then just spend our sets constantly diving, it's alot better than being a wallflower. Hell, I'll even kneel down so you can jump off me, the stage is just as much yours as it is ours, make it count.

Any plans for touring once the 12" is available?
JM: We're doing the West Coast shows with Mindset in June. Prolly not much more this summer. Maybe a show here and there.
Nate: Being based in Seattle these days, I have to fly out for shows that aren't on the west coast, so that will likely limit our activity a bit more than we'd like. I say with confidence that a hometown record release show will occur this summer.
Chuck: Cali summer 08! Check the blog for dates or cool videos of awesome hip hop.
JH: Dude, Chuck, that video blows! But maybe you didn't mean that one since you said "awesome hip hop".

Since you're a fairly new band, please introduce yourself. Name, age, who-does-what and favorite Revelation release?
JM: I'm John Millin. I play guitar, I'm an old man. I'd probably have to pick REV015.
Nate: "Clevo" Nate Hough-Snee, drums and plaid shirts, eco-trivia and academia. Being a ripe 22, I vote for REV 65 (Battery) or 67 (In My Eyes) although everyone will give me crap.
Chuck: Yo I'm Chuck, so straight edge. I fish for bass on the pond. I'm a Chain guy I think that's REV10, man I don't know numbers... I just mosh.
JH: I'm Jeff I just pick up the mic. Like Millen, I'm old....in hardcore. I already have to bust up this first question. Fave Rev release collecting-wise is the Together 7", I have lots I can't help it, someone trade me a test. Fave release overall I will go with The Way It Is cause then I can include Breakdown and Krakdown too, besides by mentioning these comps I am also taking into consideration that Straight Ahead was originally gonna

RIGHT IDEA

Photos: Brittany Clark and Chris Bavaria

Who is the lucky owner of the three jackets on the demo cover? How did he get his hands on them?
JM: That's a Jeff question.
Chuck: Don't tell Hesser, but he let me borrow them to take photos of them for the demo cover and I can't find them...
JH: Yeah I own them, perhaps owned them if Chuck really lost them. Dude does photo shoots like he's a young Sammy Seigler or something, for real, it's funny shit. I love history in general and can agree with Indiana Jones that certain things 'belong in a museum' so I try to recover certain hardcore artifacts so they aren't lost forever.

Besides being about 10 years older, what's different about playing in Right Idea and playing in Commited?
JM: I dunno. It's real similar to me - which is what makes it great! Maybe i lost a few inches on my vertical leap, though. I forgot how much fun it was to play a show where the 'energy' I just as (if not more) important than the songs themselves. One thing that's different is we aren't as active as Committed was, so every show is something special and worth looking forward to!

Besides John, were the rest of you in other bands?
Nate: I drummed in Names for Graves and just started in Seattle's Column with Ole of Get the Most fame. I need to do more bands!
JH: I roadied for Committed. I did pretty much no work as a roadie except hung out with friends from other cities which bummed the band out. With Right Idea...not much has changed.

As we mentioned earlier, you don't have a myspace page, the demo was released as a cassette only and now your record will come out on vinyl only. While both of us thinks it's really cool and all one must question your motives?
Nate: We're livin' in 1982, plain and simple. I read about this thing in the paper called an Ipod the other day where the music just plays--no needles, no tape, nothing! I want to release one of those next.

Some 7-8 years ago, Bridge9 was "the label to be on", a couple of years later Livewire Records got a lot of attention for their work with The First Step and Damage Control, among others. Do you think that React! might be the new "thing"?
Nate: I hope React! is the next big thing so Aram can have a giant hummer with a REACT! logo street wrap and a system that cruises British Columbia playing Uniform Choice and Manliftingbanner. I also hope he gets a giant street team and throws club parties where everyone dances to The Smiths and they serve bottomless Shirley Temples and South Hamptons. If he makes enough money, he can help Dave Excursion payoff his label debts in pennies: www.pennyproject.net and expand his already large Bad Brains collection. Seriously, Aram is giving back to the scene and I hope kids love the records, because I know he puts lots of thought into his releases, from the individuals in the bands, to the songs, to the aesthetic of the records, he is on a mission to keep the edge strong, worldwide through positive vibes.

What do you think of this kind of "hype"? Are kids too picky with what label a band is on, and for bands, do you think that a lot of bands are too caught up with getting on the right label, when they might be better off doing it themselves? (Not saying you are nor dissing Aram/React...)
Nate: We're actually still discussing self-releasing our demo on vinyl, so nothing is out of the question. I think that in the case of all the 'hype' labels of the last few years, a lot of individuals and bands have worked really hard to leave their mark in hardcore through touring, doing shows and helping other bands out. Some got 'hype,' some didn't--if everyone achieved their personal goals of having fun and making songs/records that they wanted to, then everyone won from the kids in the pit to the bands to the USPS who ships all those 7"s.

In an old interview with John (about 7-8 years old I believe) you said you didn't know much about European hardcore besides Final Exit and Refused, have you had the chance to look into some more bands? Got any favorites?
JM: Oh no, you did homework. Our friends Spoiler and Dan are in a band from Montreal called Omegas. Quebec counts, right? Hahaha! We're all into Balance, but Jeff loves Euro HXC the most, so I'll leave this to him. (Note: I still love me some Refused and Final Exit)
Nate: Sportswear, 50 on Red, and some of the legit bros just introduced me to Fumbles in Life. I'm a fan of Euro labels too: Refuse Records, XCrucial ResponseX, and today's European juggernaut, Powered.
Chuck: Balance straight edge .
JH: I'll limit my answer here cause I can go on for quite some time, Euro hardcore is way underrated especially when you focus purely on the music. As far as older bands go I dig all Sportswear, the H-Street demo, Abusive Action's lp is insanely good, the first Oil 7", Mainstrike, Tiebreak, Insurance Risk, Strength Approach's second 7" I think it was, and much more. More recent faves include the Balance







demo, True Colors just keeps blowing my mind with each release, Common Cause demo, One Voice 7", BOAF, Justice and that Loud and Clear lp.

How did you react (no pun intended) when Aram told you he wanted to release the band? Was it an easy decision, or were there more offers from different labels you had to take into consideration before going with React?
JM: Aram rules and Nate knows him and the other Pac NW edge dudes real well. Aram and I have a bunch of mutual friends too. We're all real into what he's doing with the label and stoked to be a part of it.
Nate: Aram broke the news of React! coming to fruition in early '08 and Hess and I decided early on that, aside from Youngblood, it was the only North American label we really would want to be a part of. When Aram asked what we were doing, I told him we'd just done some new songs and he basically said, "I want to do the record when you're ready to release it." He's a guy who presses vinyl, not a full-time "label," but he has helped us out a ton. It's such a tight group of bands in Mindset and Get the Most as part of the React! crew that I couldn't be happier. Critical bands put out by a classic edgeman-it's the Right Idea!
JH: Aram is a great guy and I am glad to have met him this past year. Although I did find a cigarette butt in his TFS merch bag in Detriot ha.

Favorite Straight Ahead song, and why?
JM: "Right Idea" obviously!
Nate: Knock Down, the unreleased classic!
Chuck: "Straight ahead". I can play that shit!
JH: Can't I just pick any live Straight Ahead, seriously that energy cannot be captured on record. The whole ep is solid though along with all of their other stuff. Carroll rules, I even wanted to cover Penguin Romp at one point, but at least we cover Knockdown from time to time.

In time for thanksgiving, you posted "10 reasons not to eat turkey" on your blog. Are you all into vegetarianism? and if so, what made you take the step? Or if not...how come?
JM: I'm veg and have been so for all my adult life (a pretty long time now). I'm pretty sure I put a disclaimer on the blog though that we're not all veg. We do all like food though!
Nate: I was vegan for a few years and then between working at a restaurant and traveling to the far ends of the earth, I kind of had to eat what was there without discrimination, so some carne y queso were consumed. In hindsight, I don't think they have a word for vegetarian in Kaktoviak, Alaska. I'm back on track as a vegetarian these days.
Chuck: I eat everything, non stop. I respect the veg and sometimes have veg weekends. I didn't eat meat once for a year. I like to set personal challenges all the time whether it's in my diet, school or family life. It helps spice up the daily grind. Ask Hess about his Textitarian lifestyle.
JH: I love food, crucial bbq's should be had year round. I am very big on pregaming at meals, you know, stopping to eat before reaching the restaurant.

Besides hardcore, sports seem to play big roles in your lives. Do you follow any specific team/sport or is it just sports in general? Do you play any sports or are you just watching?
JM: I'm super into sports. Always have been. I love baseball, Int'l soccer, college football, and well, mostly everything. I support all Cleveland area teams and always will - I'm a pretty strong believer in sports teams being a huge asset to a community. And Cleveland needs all the fiscal and communal help it can get! I also support Liverpool FC and The Ohio State Buckeyes. I can comfortably say though that the whole band are Indians fans.
Nate: I'm proud to be a supporter of Cleveland State University Wrestling and the United States World Teams in Greco-Roman and Freestyle wrestling. I used to skateboard a lot, but thanks to bum knees, I now limit myself to a few times a year. I do, however, do a bit of bicycle touring and have been known to hit the weight pile from time to time.
Chuck: I'm in with the Clevo teams. I try to stay in top of what's going on as much as I can. But don't ask me about E.R.A's and how many strikes CC threw last night! I can tell you about some of the Cavs players tattoos though.. No homo.
JH: I enjoy watching football and baseball but nothing beats actualy physical activity. I love to play sports but less people seem to that I know so I settle for lifting and exercise these days.

What do you do besides playing in bands and watching sports?
JM: Work. Hang out. I'm a season ticket holder for the Tribe and I also play in another band called Cheap Tragedies, so bands and sports are pretty time consuming for me.
Nate: John's being modest, he plays in Cleveland's best band, Cheap Tragedies - look for their releases on No Idea and Livewire! I'm rounding the corner out of undergraduate studies into a PhD-track program in restoration ecology at the University of Washington. I also work with the Snoqualmie Indian Tribe in Western Washington as a restoration ecologist and spend time outdoors whenever possible.
Chuck: Senior fashion man at the Kent State Fashion School. I run it. I also valet cars, kiss pretty girls and do 1000's of push-ups and sit-ups.

Some of you witnessed the Floorpunch reunion shows. What was it like to catch them again, ten years later?
Chuck: The Hess and I made it to the Floorpunch gig with a crew of friends. It was great. This was my first time seeing FP and thought it was amazing. The energy, messagr, and dives were still there. It also was a great opportunity for us to pass out demos and spread the word about our band and blog.
JH: I saw this band a ton back when they were around and they gave me some of my best show memories like the time they played GWSU and the ceiling got ripped to pieces or how insane the Final Mosh was. They were some of the funniest/coolest guys too, especially their roadie Jeremy. I once went to a Denny's with just them where they spent 2 hours straight talking about the hardest moshers of NYC in the 80s I was just in awe. The reunion was just like any of their other shows...perfection from the band.

Some of you have been serving in the US army. Where were you stationed, and what was your role there? Today, most people think of the Iraq war when speaking of American soldiers. What's your take on that conflict?
JM: I don't know that any of us were ever in the services.
Nate: I have friends and family who have done time in the military. I support the individual soldiers past and present, but do not support the perpetuation of a global militarized nation-state, including the Iraq occupation. To my friends Jason and Tom Hennig and Darren Long who are in Iraq, stay safe, brothers!
Chuck: Actually guys I'm off to boot camp spring ´09.
JH: I think you might mean our friend Ed, who comes to a lot of the shows with us. America rules!

Some of you are involved in politics, what do you consider the biggest issues in the US and the world respectively? Have you been involved in politics for a long time?
JM: Nate appears to be the most politically conscious of the group to me.
Nate: John's right, I'm an ecodork. In the past few years, I have done some political things regarding conservation of biodiversity, the Arctic National Wildlife Ref-

uge, and carbon forestry under the Kyoto protocol, but I'm really an aspiring research scientist and applied ecologist. In turn, I feel that global climate change*, energy and food production are the most important issues facing our nation and the world. I could go on and on, but the implications of a world where oil is scarce and the global energy market has delivered few alternatives to keep food production moving, are all scary. Simultaneously, rising global temperatures and thermal expansion of the oceans coupled with melting Polar ice mean that we'll live in a world very different than the one we see today, one with startling ecological and economic differences. Climate refugees, diminishing food production and resource conflicts may all be issues our generation has to address due to a global climate that no longer supports life, both ecologically and as anthropocentrically as in the past.

Bill McKibben wrote an excellent book called 'The End of Nature' in the late eighties that discusses the changes the world has seen and will see while Elizabeth Kolbert wrote "Field Notes from a Catastrophe' in 2006. Both are great introductory books, geared towards anyone with an interest but no background in climate science, ecology or climate politics. Does it get any more 'political' than recommending books in band interviews? I try to check my politics and environmental beliefs and interact as positively as possible with as many people as I can. Slogans and rhetoric aren't going to win friends, special-interest advocates or a more thoughtful world. Being a reasonable person who doesn't judge the people around him is worth a million political bumper stickers, heated arguments or paternalistic lectures. I have strong beliefs, but I don't expect the world to bow to those views or embrace them.

The song "Our World" is basically about getting excited about something, anything, and striving to make the world a better place through your actions. I think that some uber-political types might cite that as a cop-out, but really, is preaching going to carry the day? No, positive, passionate individuals will do that in various arenas.

**I also realize that I'm a total hypocrite for flying back and forth across America several times a year while citing climate change as my largest socio-environmental and political worry.*

It does not get more political than that but that doens't have to be a negative thing right? Do you sometimes feel that in hardcore today it's "not OK" to talk politics?

Nate: I don't feel that hardcore shuld be apolitical, after all, a hardcore show is, theoretically, the most open-minded place you can be in a lot of places in the world. I've decided after lots of arguing values and beliefs as an idealistic kid, that it isn't my job to be a zealot or know-it-all. I can live how I want and do my academic work within the constraints that I'd like to set, but to expect people with diverse backgrounds and values to necessarily want to discuss and internalize or even change their own values and actions, is straight foolin'. Hardcore is full of young people, and I don't think that the average Joe or Jane Hardcore kid, coming out of high school wants to be a Noam Chomsky or David Orr. A lot of us came to hardcore because we didn't fit, and if politics are going to exclude people who are just looking for substance and searching for some positive meaning, then I've done them a disservice that is as bad as the people who say that there is no place for political discourse in hardcore.

As far as I can tell, hardcore is an exchange of different ideas with no predefined wrongs or rights where nobody gets cast out unless they're on some next level bad shit i.e. racism, sexism or fascism. The core has room for crusters, basketball shorts, crucial edgemen and women, whatever, hardcore takes all comers and it should be that way first and foremost...

Your record was mastered by a guy who also mastered bands like Ben Folds Five and other big bands. How do you tell someone like that 'we wanna sound kinda like this' and showing a Floorpunch record?

JM: Suma's a rad studio and Paul is one of the few dudes left who'll cut masters for vinyl on site. We actually recorded the songs though with our friend John D at his studio called Negative Space. John's been our friend for a long time an has recorded a few of my others bands and I alwsys work real well with him. Good times.

JH: I witnessed the grooves being cut into the vinyl at Suma which was one of my coolest experiences in hardcore. He also handed me a vinyl copy of the record that day which is something I am sure I will always own, kind of like a laquer. This guy could tell the mic layout in the studio for the drums by looking at the grooves it was insane.

Cloing words?

Nate: In a word of closing, please check out maintain fanzine from Washington: http://maintainfanzine.blogspot.com and the legitimate brotherhood of bands: http://www.legitimatebros.com

JH: Dance, dive, and have some fun.







ARAM

Photos by: Fred Hammer and Mangel.

We're not even gonna pretend this dude needs an introduction. Champion, Anchor/React Records, Betrayed, The First Step, all in all amazing dude.

Imagine people have lived under a rock, or perhaps got into HC about a month ago, how would you introduce yourself to them?
- Hmmm, beyond saying hello? Haha okay, I guess the short run down is that my name is Aram Arslanian, it's a weird name so don't sweat it if you slip up and call me Uhram or Eram or Iram or Graham or whatever by mistake, it happens all the time and I'm a gracious gentleman.

I'm 34, Straight Edge and Vegan, I'm married to a wonderful lady named Kim and we have a wiener dog named Josh who is the best dog in the entire world. I work as a Substance Abuse Counselor and have spent the last year working on a project that provides housing for the mentally ill and drug addicted population of Vancouver, BC, Canada which is also the city that I live in.

I've played in a bunch of bands such as Champion, Betrayed, Vows, and The First Step and roadied for a few bands over the years as well. I ran a small record label when I was in college called Anchor Records and now run an equally small label called REACT! I've had the privilege to travel quite a bit through touring and also the honor to meet some amazing people from all over the world.

If you wanted to say "this record reflects my life, this record is 'me' " which record would it be?
- Uniform Choice- Screaming for Change.

What are you most proud of in your life, that you've accomplished or been a part of/done on your own?
- I'd say my marriage to Kim is the thing that I'm most proud of- we built it together and I couldn't have hoped for a better partner; she's an amazing person and its unbelievable to be able to call her my wife.

Beyond that I'd have to say that Champion is the thing that I take the most pride in, in my life. I know that sounds kind of weird but that band really gave everything we had to getting out and spreading our ideas and we did it in a way that was respectful and compassionate. I feel deep love for the people I had the good fortune to share those times with and couldn't be prouder of all of the things we accomplished. As a sidebar to that I'd like to point out that everyone from Champion is still Straight Edge, all of us still play in hardcore and punk bands, and we all still are active in the scene through playing in bands, touring, putting out records, and attending and putting on shows.

You work with kids who have problem with drugs and you've been into 'heavy drinking' yourself and found the edge which, I guess, saved you, is it weird to be around all these people and them NOT understanding 'the edge'? Assuming most of them aren't into hardcore/punk music.
- Well I guess the first thing for me is that Straight Edge didn't save me, and I don't think it sa-



ves anyone who's an addict. If you have an addiction and you manage to break free of it then be proud of that as something YOU accomplished and not pass it off as something that any scene or movement just handed to you. I think recovery rarely lasts when people get sober because of something outside of themselves- be that a scene, a movement, or even another person- you have to do it because you want to save your life so you can't base that decision on anything else but what is inside of you. Finding sobriety is a pretty brutal journey so to anyone out there that gets there make sure to claim that for yourself and feel good about it!

But, I don't want to come off like I'm dismissing the edge as being a big factor in my sobriety; Straight Edge was, and still is, a HUGE part of me keeping my recovery strong and motivated. It's something I deeply believe in and a refuge for me- a place to find like-minded people looking to live clean and make some kind of positive change in the world.

As for people who I work with- nah it's never weird because sober and positive living isn't just attached to Straight Edge. I can have the same conversations that I'd have at a show about why I'm Straight Edge with any of my clients, I'd just not call it sXe and I wouldn't reference Youth of Today or try to convince them to sell me their rare records.

Does it put the hardcore life (touring, edge-talk, collecting etc) in perspective and sort of get your feet down to earth?

- My job does a great job of reminding me that we live in a world that has a lot bigger problems then who has message board beef, what band called who out, and what the latest trend is. It can be weird because sometimes I catch myself getting really caught up in some scene crisis and then work will slap me back into reality and I'll have to take a step back and recognize that the ins and outs of the HC scene- the gossip, the in fighting, the ego trips- they're all just distractions from what my focus should be. That's not just based in HC either- no matter who you are or what you're into there's always some petty bullshit that tries to distract you from the really horrible things that are happening in our world so we all need to fight to stay aware! Forget all of the bullshit because all of the petty scene stuff is self-regulating, it ebbs and flows all of its own accord no matter what we do so we should all try to not focus on it a hopefully recognize that the only thing in this world worth spending time on is showing love, support, and compassion to all living beings on this planet.

What record/show/moment made you interested in hardcore/punk to start with? Do you remember the first time you felt "Wow, this band is EXACTLY what hardcore is all about", what band was that, and what made you feel that way?

- Well that's kind of a weird question for me to answer because I got into HC in the late 80's and there was so much insane music floating around that it was hard to say, "THIS IS HARDCORE" because to me it all was (and still is) hardcore. When I first started going to shows there wasn't really a bunch of different scenes within scenes- I mean there was a bit, but nothing close to how it is today, so I was exposed to a lot of different bands all of which I considered HC. The first really fast stuff I got into though was Thrash- bands like COC, DRI, Beyond Possession, etc and from there I discovered 7 Seconds, Minor Threat, Uniform Choice, etc. So I was just getting into all sorts of really fast, aggressive music but the bands that I loved the most were always the ones that had something to say about creating change in the world and the one band and record that just cemented what I felt HARDCORE was for me was Youth of Today- We're Not In This Alone. WNITA is just an insane record from the cover art, to the lyrics, to the sheer fury of the music the whole LP totally captivated me and definitely made me feel like, "This makes sense, I feel connected to this" so I'd credit that band and that record for getting me on the path I'm on today.

What's the pride and joy of your record collection and shirt collection respectively?

- I don't have a shirt collection because I never take care of my clothing and also eat like a pig and would definitely ruin nice core shirts. As for my record collection, well son I do own the acetate for the Bad Brains PAY TO CUM single which is one of the most insane things of all time to happen to any human on the planet. If you don't know what an acetate is please look it up on the Internet, think about how insanely rare that single is, and then pump your fist in the air for me… that's how crazy it is that I own that thing.

And what about records you've been a part of, which one is the pride and joy? ("all of them" is not an acceptable answer here, sorry hah!)

- Champion- Promises Kept

I can say that without any hesitation because the process of writing, recording, and touring on that record literally changed my life and I'm forever grateful.

What was the biggest difference between touring/playing/meeting people with Champion and doing the same with TFS?

- With Champion the vibe was always really intense- intense love, intense frustration, intense excitement, intense anger, intense fun. Like we were very, "Do or Die" about the band and while we were total goofballs and really fun guys to get around we also took our band and our message very seriously and gave it 100% every night.

With TFS the vibe was a lot less intense and more laid back, which was a really nice change of pace for me after Champion broke up. I mean TFS was absolutely committed to our message and our music, but just took more of a relaxed approach to it. For example Champion was a really tight ship, we'd always be on time to our shows and have everything super well organized, but TFS would wake up late, drive an hour out of the way to eat at some vegan restaurant, another hour out of the way to pick up a friend, and show up to the show hours late with our merch all over the van and not knowing who's gear we would be borrowing. Hahaha both were fun as hell and amazing times, but definitely two very different experiences! As another sidebar, Champion definitely had a WAY better sense of humor than TFS (Greg Bacon is excluded here because that guy is funny as hell), and knew how to really party- TFS were a bunch of fun guys but never took it to the heights of the Champ crew!

How did React come together? You used to run Anchor Records right, why not just continue with that?

- I started REACT! because I wanted to support bands that I felt were writing songs with lyrics that were actually trying to give people hope and address some of the problems in our world. Anchor was a totally different vibe- I was a young guy who was really excited to do a label and get involved on that end of things. It was a good experience but it was really just too broad of a scope and I couldn't keep up wit it because I was always away with Champion. When I decided to do a label again I wanted to keep it really simple and focused- vinyl only, one time presses, a big focus on the art and packaging, and bands that I completely relate to on a lyrical and musical level- and I felt that the history of Anchor was a bit too complex for what I wanted to try to achieve so I decided to start fresh.

Why was Get The Most React#1? Was their demo sort of a reason to start a label in the first place?

- I've know the guys in Get the



Most for years and have played in bands with them, toured with their other bands, and just kicked it with them forever. When GTM started I was so excited to see my friends doing something so awesome that I really wanted to support them and help spread the word and I'm really happy I've had that chance with REACT!

How do you "pick" bands for React?
- I'm pretty picky with what bands I work with- that being said I have signed on for like 8 projects so I'm dealing with a full plate! What I look for is a combination of great music and art, friendly and welcoming personalities, and lyrics that have something constructive to say about life and the world around us- that sounds like a lot to ask from a band, but I think we all need to hold the bands in our scene to a higher standard!

As it stands now I don't take demo submissions and that's not because of any reason beyond the fact that I'm not a "real" label. Like I don't run adds, I don't keep records in press, I don't offer tour support, etc so I don't want people coming to me with all of these expectations. I just like to approach a band, let them know what I do and don't do, and then see if they're interested.

Between job, married life and bands how do you find time to run a label on top of that?
- It can be a bit taxing, but the way I have it set up now seems to be working out really well and I also have a great crew of people who help me out when I need to get something done and I can't get to it (Larson, Bob, Beej, Ole, and Ace- I love you guys!). I love doing it though and for the most part it works out and hopefully will keep doing so in the future!

A lot of "older" dudes in hardcore say that they lost touch with the scene since "there are no good bands anymore" and "it's not how it used to be". Do you feel that way sometimes? What would you say still keeps you active, doing bands and a label etc?
- I've been on the edge of feeling like that within recent years and it was REACT! and TFS that really helped ward that off. I can understand how people can get really disillusioned with HC but that goes back to the idea of just not getting caught up in the petty stuff and instead focusing on all the communication of ideas, and the sharing of hope and compassion; we have the chance to be a part of something really amazing in the HC scene but it can only be recognized when we start to let go of the small stuff and focus on the bigger picture.

I'm still out doing a band and a label because I love the music and completely believe in the idea that hardcore can change a person's life. Hardcore has given me so much that I'm grateful for and I want to give back as much as I've taken so I don't ever expect that there will be appoint where I'm not going to shows, buying zines and records, playing in bands, and trying to get out and still talk about what I believe in.

You recently told me about Betrayed doing shows again. Are you back together? Will new Betrayed material be recorded and released soon? Same line-up?
- Well as soon as I'm done typing this I'll be packing up my bag for our tour of Japan so yes I think I can safely say we are back together- the line-up is still the same as are the ideas and focus of the band. You may be seeing a new Betrayed record sometime next year; yet again you may also may not- I have no idea what's going to happen, but I'm definitely loving playing again and giving it my all.

What do you prefer, being an axe man or handling the vocals? Which band/what guitarist made you pick up the guitar to start with? How come you sang/sing in Betrayed? was it something you've always wanted to do or more like "hey, I'll try to sing, let's see how that turns out."
- You're cheating here man, that's like 3 questions in 1! It goes back and forth which I prefer- I love playing guitar, especially in TFS, but its also really cool to be able to get out up front and have my say. The band that made me first start to play music was 7 Seconds because their songs weren't too complex so I felt like it was something that I could aspire to… and I'm still trying haha.

In regards to becoming a singer- it was something that I'd wanted to do for a long time but never had the opportunity to try. Todd and I had always discussed doing a band and one day he just came to me with some songs and encouraged me to sing on them and that's how it all came about! I really encourage people to not over think it- if you want to do it then DO IT, either it will be good (or at least eventually be good) or it wont be but you'll still have some great memories from it and it'll be worth your effort.

Thanks so much for the interview and for doing your zine! Everyone please take the time to show love, respect, and compassion to the lives you come across and most of all direct those things towards yourself. Thanks!






TRUE COLORS

Interview with Hinkey
Pictures from attheshow.org

”True Colors - A straight edge band from Belgium”. What else do you think is important to know about TC?

- I like people to know we’re a Powered band. The guys in Powered records have been our best friends since way before we started the band and to say they’ve got their shit togheter would be the understatement of the year. Not only do they exclusively release good music, everything they put out looks amazing! From the smallest flyer over all their shirts and records to their big promo posters. For us it’s truly an honor to be on Powered Records, so I’d like True Colors to be associated with the label. Get down with the Powered sound!

I would also like to be known as a band from Antwerpen, the fact that two of us don’t live in Antwerp doesn’t matter. There is only one city!

Compare True Colors and yourselves 2004 to True Colors and yourselves 2008.

- Four years is a long long time when you think about it! And many things have changed since when we started out, but on the same hand, everything is still pretty much the same. The four of us didn’t really know eachother before we formed the band, now after years of touring and traveling togheter I think it’s safe to say we’ve got to know eachter slightly better. The scene around here is completely different compared to 2004. We used to be a starting band, always opening for Justice or Restless youth. Now we’re often headlining shows in Belgium and abroad. Our first demo tape was put out by ourselves quite unprofesionally, now we have Powered Records to take care of pretty much everything concerning our new releases.

But in the end, we’re all still four kids excited to play the music we love with such a huge passion. We’re all still straight edge and none of us grew their hair.

4 years ago did you expect to have accomplished this much, or perhaps even more, with the band?

- Its pretty absurd to think back now on my expectations I had of where TC would take us. Four years ago the only thing i hoped for was to go on tour with True Colors, if only once...

So what’s happening with True Colors right now? Enjoying the summer in Belgium? Writing songs? Football?

- We’ve been working on new songs for a little while now, and it’s going slow but pretty well. I think we have three songs nearly ready. But more imporantly, Packo’s girlfriend just gave birth to their first daughter a few days ago. The baby is completely healthy and so so beautiful. Both parents are so proud and look very happy!

You have made quite a lot of touring. Do you find it hard to find free time within the band? What do you do for a living, I mean, how many of you have to take time off work for tour, and has this ever affected your ”worklife” in a negative way?

- All of us have steady jobs so that really sucks to combine with a touring band. Dunk and I only have 20 days to take off from work a year so thats pretty much all we can tour. Dunk works as computer nerd, Packo is the big boss of the TV departement at Saturn, Peers professionly washes titties, and I work as a printer.

What did you guys think of Sweden? Obviously, the scene here isn’t the best, there are not a lot of kids at hardcore shows, but otherwise, did you enjoy your weekend over here?

- We definitely enjoyed that weekend! It sucks that it’s been almost two years ago last time we played Sweden. There weren’ t a lot of kids at shows indeed but they all seemed very dedicated, so that’s cool. And all the cities we hung out in seemed very beautiful, and very clean too! I really would love to play Stockholm someday...

Shout outs to Commitement Crew, best Swedish band!

A hardcore band’s life span is generally kinda short, and you have already released a demo, a 7”, took the big step to an LP, and then another 7”? What’s next? And will you stay with Powered?

- We just did a song for the youth crew 08 comp (stop the hate, dedicated to Antwerpen!), and we’re currently writing songs for our 2nd LP. Our new LP should be out in spring 2009, on Powered Records, that goes without saying...

Did you find it hard to write songs for an LP, and did you work in a different way than with the new 7”?

- It’s not necessarily harder to write songs for an lp, it just

takes more time... And as you get anxious to record and put out your songs after a while, it was cool to do this 7" after our LP. We always have kind of the same way of writing songs: either Dunk comes up with a riff on his guitar, or packo comes up with a riff he has got in his head, and then one of them tells peers kind of how to drum to it. Then we all add ideas and work on it till its finished. When we're recording Patrick from 195 studio and Stief from Justice are always there to give us suggestions for subtile 2nd guitar parts or bass solos to improve the songs to a new level.

It seems like in 2004/2005 the scene in Belgium exploded and new bands were everywhere, among those were Dead Stop and Justice and it seemed like they were a big inspiration for the European hardcore scene. Do you feel like the scene has gone back to how it was before that happened, now that Dead Stop and Justice are no longer around. Is the belgian hardcore scene on its way up or down?
- I only got into the hardcore scene around 2001-2002 so I expierenced those pre-2004 years a lot different then this era. In 2003 we all believed that the best hardcore bands and shows only happened far away from the little country where we were stuck in. Offcourse we already had Dead Stop at that time, and we followed them everywhere we could, but their shows were still far from as crazy as how they would be in 2004-2005. Things started to change in the end of 2003 when Justice started to play shows and put out their demo. All of a sudden lots of new bands and fanzines popped up and kids got really excited and started to go nuts at shows. The zotte sfeer era came to an end around the time dead stop broke up in 2006. Now Justice also broke up recently but that doesn't stop us from hanging out, I still see almost all of the guys in Dead Stop, Justice, Restless Youth, Turn The Screw. Some I still hangout with every weekend, some I only see every once in a while. Ah look at me, I'm rambling again...

In Sweden, we have some decent bands, but a lousy scene. It doesn't seem to be like that in Belgium. From what I've heard and seen on videos and pictures, kids seem to go off to their local bands, just as much or maybe more than they do for US bands touring Europe. I know it's hard for you to judge another country's hardcore scene, but what do you think is the difference between the Belgian and Swedish scene? Is appreciating your local scene a matter of attitude or is it simply so that hardcore is "trendy" in Belgium right now?
- There aren't many good Belgian bands around anymore, and kids certainly don't go off for them as much as for US bands anymore. Sometimes we play awesome shows in Belgium, but when we headline a show with only local bands in Belgium often no more than 20 people show up, that how it is in Belgium at the moment... Shout outs to good Belgian bands like Rhythm To The Madness, Rise and Fall, Losing Streak, Vogue and One Voice(rip)

Do you all live in the same city, so you can rehearse regularly?
- Packo and I live in Antwerp, that's where we practice. The other guys live about 45 minutes from here. Peers lives in Hasselt, togheter with Bompowered and Flip Justice at the Powered headquarters. Dunk lives in Leuven. Leuven sucks.

Have any of you been in any band before? I know that Packo was in Building, so this question is for him: What is the biggest difference between playing in Building and True Colors?
- Peers used to play drums for shitbands who are not worth mentioning like: XkombatX, Dead X Reckoning, Think It Through. Dunk used to play in Last Straw and Justice.

Packo - Everything is about singing in a band is different now. When we did Building we were all still very young, now all of us in True Colors are older. I never expected to sing for a band again, and it's so awesome cause the music is so much better this time around.

Have you noticed any change with the release of the LP, I mean, more attention, more interviews and such?
- We do get more attention compared to a few years ago and it still amazes me from time to time. Having an LP out probably contributed to the recognition we get for a huge part, but I like to believe all our touring is still the main reason.

It seems to be more and more bands who not only tour Europe and the US, but also Australia, Japan and South America. Do you have any plans for that? or any plans for a US tour?
- We're gonna tour the US in october and there are no words to describe my excitement for that!! I would love to tour the entire world, but I don't really see that happen... I'm already very greatfull for all the tours we were able to do. Countries we haven't played so far that we still aim to play include United States, Canada, Italy, Norway and Czech Republic.

One more, exactly how much do you love Break down the walls and the Turning Point demo?
- Those records never get old. Pure fucking genius! both of them!





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